

Electro-static test puts evidence in doubt

Birmingham Six cases go to second appeal

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT, AND ROBIN OAKLEY

THE cases of the six men convicted of killing 21 people in the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings were referred back to the Court of Appeal for a second time yesterday.

The Home Secretary's decision to order a new hearing only two years after a long and costly appeal confirmed the convictions is likely to bring renewed demands for reform of the criminal appeals procedure, whatever the outcome, especially in the wake of the freeing of the Guildford Four last year.

David Waddington said his decision stemmed from new evidence unearthed by an independent examination of aspects of the original police investigation into the 1974 bombings, the worst IRA strike on the British mainland. He had not been expected to make an announcement until the autumn after Devon and Cornwall police had completed their enquiry, but information sent to him by the team over the weekend convinced him that the cases needed to be reviewed again immediately.

The Home Office said that tests carried out on a police record of an interview with Richard McKenny, one of the six, suggested that not all the notes had been taken at the same time. It was still unclear last night whether other notes made by detectives responsible for interrogating the Birmingham Six had been subjected to the same "electrostatic" screening, a relatively

new process. Mr Waddington told BBC Radio Four's *World at One* programme: "It might be thought to cast doubt on the safety of the convictions and therefore the case has to go back."

The six Irishmen jailed for life for the bombings claim police deliberately altered accounts of interviews to

smooth over contradictions in their statements and to cover up the way detectives had extracted confessions from them by beatings.

Mr Waddington declined to predict when the new appeal would be heard. The Crown Prosecution Service, however, said that a small team of "highly experienced" barristers had been established to review all the evidence emanating from the Devon and Cornwall enquiry, launched in March at the request of West Midlands police, who prosecuted the six. A dossier of allegations submitted by lawyers representing the six had earlier been passed to West Midlands police by the Home Office.

Lawyers say the men may have to wait six months to a year before the appeal goes to court. Their best hope of an early release is if Allan Green, the director of public prosecutions, decides - as in the Guildford Four case - the convictions can no longer be sustained.

The referral delighted families and friends of the six and prompted a prediction from Chris Mullin, the Labour MP for Sunderland South who has tirelessly campaigned for the men's exoneration, that they would be released. "I think this great scandal is about to come to an end. I expect the families share my sense of cautious optimism."

McKenny was called to the governor's office at Gartree prison, Leicestershire, with Patrick Hill and Billy Power to be told of the home secretary's decision. Afterwards, McKenny was allowed a three-minute telephone conver-

sation with his daughter, Maggie. She said later: "He said they were all overjoyed and very proud of us."

When a radio reporter broke the news to McKenny's wife, Kate, she said: "I cannot believe it. Let us just hope that this time the truth comes out. We do not want any more farce. I never doubted that the truth would come out."

The families' joy was also shared by Cardinal Basil Hume, the Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, who said he was very pleased. In the Irish Republic, where the case has become a stumbling block in diplomatic relations between the two countries, politicians called for the immediate release of the six.

Explaining his decision to refer the cases against all six men, the home secretary said it was very difficult to "disentangle" the significance of one interview with a defendant from the whole case. The account in question also referred at one point to Power.

"It is very difficult when doubt is cast on the contemporaneous nature and therefore perhaps the authenticity of perhaps one account to say that has a bearing on the conviction of one defendant and not on the conviction of at least one other. I thought the fair thing to do was to refer the whole thing back to the Court of Appeal."

Devon and Cornwall's chief constable, John Evans, said: "Recently certain new information has come to light as a result of this investigation, which is being examined rigorously. I felt it was necessary to bring the new information to the attention of the home secretary at the earliest possible moment and made my report available to the chief constable of the West Midlands for that purpose." The main report will be completed shortly.

The six men convicted in 1975 were McKenny, Power, Hill, Hugh Callaghan, John Walker and Gerard Hunter. They were refused leave to appeal in March 1976. A few months later, 14 prison officers on trial for assaulting the six were acquitted after a five-week trial.

Last spring, Granada Television showed a drama-documentary, *Who Bombed Birmingham?*, which named four of the five alleged "real" bombers. It was condemned by Mrs Thatcher as "trial by television". Last month the company screened an interview with an unidentified man who confessed to planting the bombs and said the six had nothing to do with the attacks.

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Inflation forecast threat to 1991 election plan

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE National Institute of Economic and Social Research, in one of the first detailed forecasts on the British economy since the Gulf tensions, expects inflation to be still running at nearly 7 per cent by the end of next year. If the forecast is borne out, it could put the government's election strategy in danger.

The NIESR expects inflation to peak in the fourth quarter of this year at nearly 10½ per cent and to fall slowly next year. The NIESR blames

the rise in oil prices and a higher-than-expected level of inflation before August.

The forecasts make the Treasury's budget projections of 7½ per cent at the end of 1990 and 5 per cent by the middle of next year look out of date. The NIESR is expecting minimal improvement in the balance of payments next year with a current account deficit of £17 billion against a forecast £18 billion for this year.

Inflation threat, Page 21

Woman wins historic passive smoking ruling

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A CIVIL servant suffering from asthma has won an historic ruling that illness caused by passive smoking can be classified as an industrial accident. Joan Clay, a social security officer in Luton, Bedfordshire, is pursuing a claim for disablement benefit after the Social Security Commissioner upheld an appeal that she had become incapacitated for work because colleagues smoked at her office. On six occasions between 1982 and 1986 she suffered painful injury to her lungs, nausea, headaches and extreme breathlessness from which it took her up to four days to recover.

Her claim was initially dismissed by a social security appeal tribunal but the commissioner ruled that "the balance of probabilities" was that on each occasion she suffered personal accidental injury after inhaling her colleagues' tobacco smoke. He

stressed, however, that his decision was based on special factors, including Miss Clay's extremely sensitive reaction to cigarette smoke. The ruling was not a precedent for other cases alleging harm from passive smoking, he said.

However, anti-smoking organisations heralded the ruling as a test case to make the government act on passive smoking. Two years ago a report from a health department advisory body reported that passive smoking caused a few hundred deaths from lung cancer a year in the United Kingdom and increased the risk of cancer by 30 per cent.

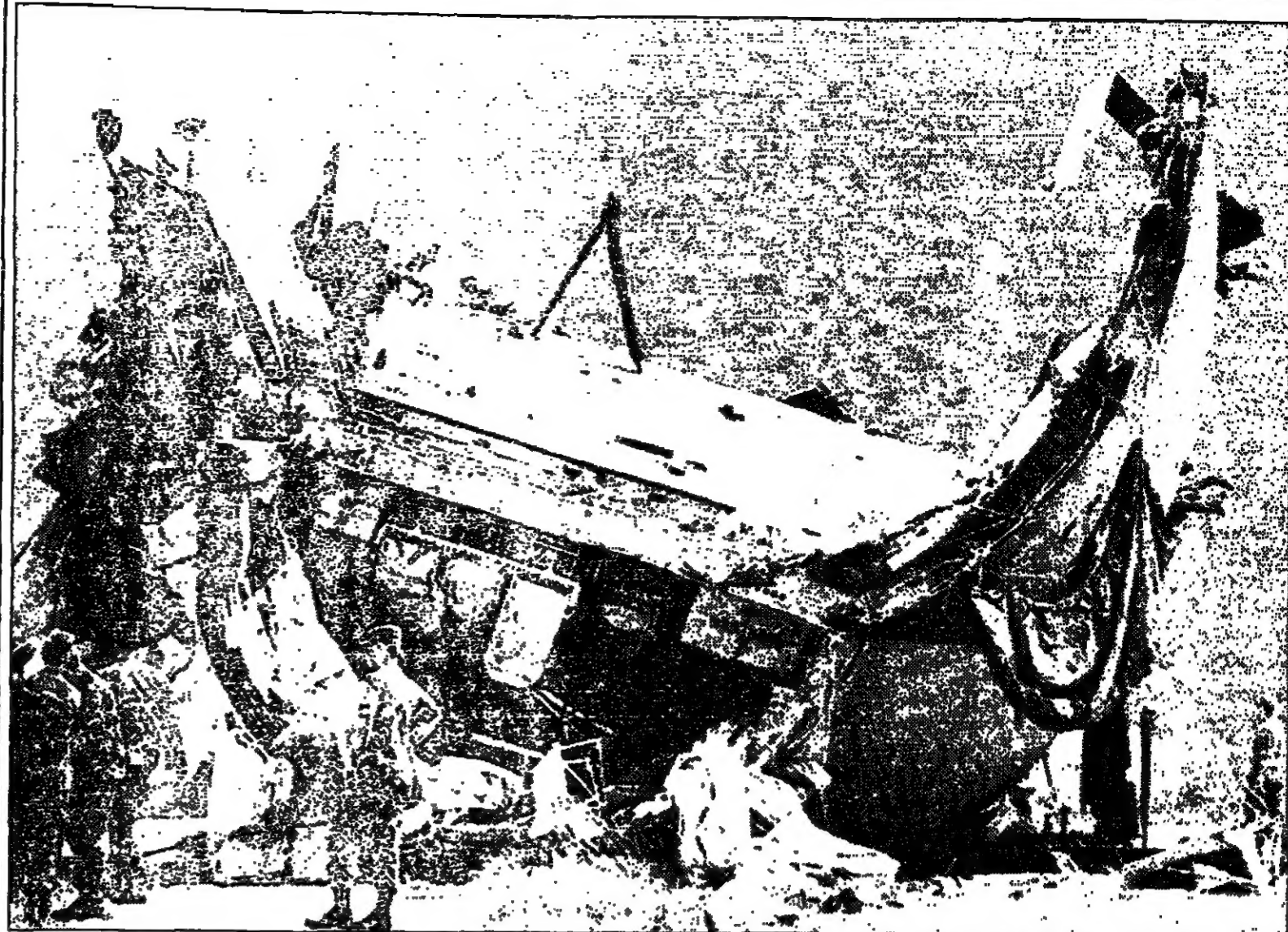
The Environmental Protection Agency in the United States published a report in June claiming that over 3,000 lung cancer deaths in America were caused by passive smoking. Some scientists believe passive smoking and heart disease are linked.

Yesterday Miss Clay said that she had succeeded in her case because she documented the dates and times on each occasion that she was exposed to

excessive smoke. If the social security medical board rules that she is more than 14 per cent disabled due to passive smoking she will be entitled to disability benefit.

Her claim for benefit under the Industrial Injuries Act was because she was now permanently sensitised to tobacco smoke as a result of passive smoking at work, she said. "Every time I breathe in smoke I get severe chest and lung pains. I just have to try to make sure that I am never in a smoking environment. I cannot use the local airport and I have difficulty on public transport especially buses."

No one has yet won a court case against their employer in Britain on passive smoking, although a test case is likely in the next two years. A 51-year-old woman, suffering from asthma and chronic respiratory disease, who claims she had to take early retirement due to the effects of passive smoking is to receive legal aid in her fight for compensation.



Gulf tragedy: the wreck of a US Air Force Galaxy which crashed at Ramstein, West Germany, on its way to the Gulf, killing 13 people on board

West prepares for the exodus from Baghdad

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN BAGHDAD AND
ANDREW McEWEN

BRITISH airlines were standing by last night to collect women and children held in Iraq and Kuwait, but officials in Baghdad still had no instructions on their release and said travel arrangements could take days to work out.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, welcomed President Saddam Hussein's reported instruction that they be allowed to go, but accused the Iraqi leader of playing a "cat and mouse" game to try to deflect attention from his occupation of Kuwait.

Margaret Thatcher, on a three-day visit to Finland, repeated her claim that President Saddam was "hiding behind the skirts of women" and said that men should also be allowed to leave. Iraq's ambassador to Washington said last night that men would be free to go if the United States promised not to attack Iraq.

British Airways and Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic had aircraft ready to fly to Baghdad to bring hostages home, and Mr Branson said he hoped to have the first women and children out today. But Western ambassadors who visited the Iraqi foreign ministry said that while they had no doubt that the release would take place as pledged, arrangements for the different categories of for-

eigner could take time to work out. One British woman said she had been told that only women with children could leave immediately.

About 1,500 British women and children could be eligible to leave, and they are divided into three categories: those

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held at strategic installations or in heavily-guarded hotels near them; residents free to move about but banned until now from leaving; and temporary visitors who were in the country when the restrictions were imposed.

Those being held in Kuwait were expected to be taken to Baghdad before being allowed home. Among the plans under consideration yesterday were an airlift to Jordan or a bus convoy over land to the Jordanian border. Diplomats from neutral Finland, Sweden and Switzerland said they would meet Iraqi officials to discuss a joint evacuation.

Mohamed al-Mashat, the Iraqi ambassador to Washington, told the State Department yesterday: "Even men can leave if the United States can guarantee us that they are not going to strike Iraq." He said women and children

could go "as of today", but added: "It is not possible administratively to have everybody go on the same day."

The Iraqi ambassador to London, Azmi al-Salibi, was called to the Foreign Office yesterday morning and asked to convey a request that Baghdad and Kuwait airports be opened and that the military blockade of the embassy in Kuwait be lifted so that British diplomats could help to organise the hostages' departure. Britain was seeking a "copper-bottomed" assurance that any planes attempting an airlift would not be seized.

Mr Hurd described the offer to allow the women and children home as a "small but welcome step away from illegality and inhumanity", but he expressed revulsion over President Saddam's tactics. "It is a cat and mouse game - now a little more, now some more ruthlessness," he said.

If the release of the women and children went ahead, it should not be thought that Iraq had gone some way towards meeting the conditions for dropping the trade embargo. Only its full acceptance of United Nations resolutions calling for its withdrawal would be sufficient.

Mrs Thatcher, echoed Mr Hurd's description of a "cat and mouse" game. She accused President Saddam of harsh, callous and ruthless

Esso puts up petrol as oil price falls

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

ESSO last night moved against the trend of falling prices for crude oil by unexpectedly putting another 8.2p on the cost of a gallon of petrol at its 2,500 filling stations.

The move provoked an outcry from politicians, motoring organisations and industry demanding to know how Esso could order price increases when oil supplies looked more secure than at any time since the start of the Gulf conflict.

Prices of crude continued their slide yesterday and are now about \$6 a barrel below last week's peak of \$32.35. That made Esso's decision to put the price of a gallon of four-star up to 225.9p (49.7p a litre) all the more baffling for motorists. Pump prices have gone up by 23p a gallon this month.

It also comes at a politically sensitive time with the Office of Fair Trading asking the oil companies to explain recent price increases. The OFT said last night it would be examining Esso's latest price move.

Shell, one of Esso's main competitors, said on Tuesday that it was able to hold back on further price rises. Other companies also seem deter-

mined to hold fire, isolating Esso.

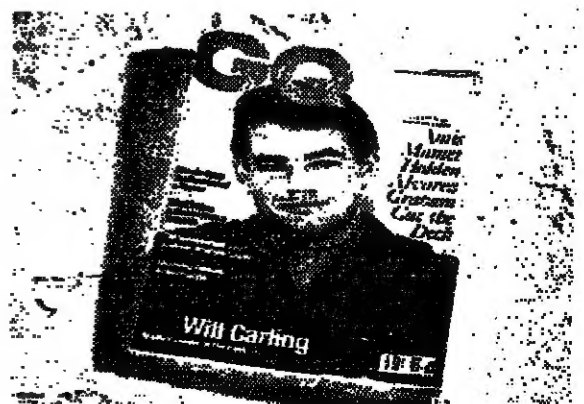
Frank Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, pointed out that when Esso last raised charges at the pumps, the spot price in Rotterdam was nearly \$27 a barrel, but was now down to about \$25. "The new Esso prices make a nonsense of the excuses the oil companies have given up to now for their price increases," he said, accusing oil firms of a "gigantic rip-off."

Esso defended its decision by saying that it had held on as long as possible before passing on a price increase which had been necessary because of the volatile market.

The price of petroleum products, such as petrol, jet fuel and kerosene, has been rising faster than crude oil because of a sharp increase in demand and a reduction in refining capacity (Martin Barrow writes).

Steve Turner, an oil analyst with Smith New Court, said other petrol companies may resist immediate increases "in the interest of goodwill and responding to political pressure". But if current spot market prices persisted they would have to follow Esso in a few days.

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INSIDE

Gold medals for Britian

Kris Akabusi broke the oldest British track record to win the 400 metres hurdles at the European Championships in Split yesterday. Akabusi's time of 47.92sec removed from the record books the mark of 48.12sec set by David Hemery in Mexico City in the 1968 Olympic Games.

Tom McKean, from Scotland, won the men's 800 metres in the fastest time of 1min 44.76sec. David Sharpe, from England, finished second to complete a British double. McKean's victory brought Britain their fourth gold medal of the championships. Page 38

Spies immune

East German spies who worked in the West are to be guaranteed freedom from prosecution after unification, it was said yesterday. Page 9

Pay awards row

Pay rises of 27 per cent to BBC governors, members of the Independent Broadcasting Authority and to members of the shadow Independent Television Commission and the shadow Radio Authority have brought angry attacks on the government. Page 20

Cash siphoned

Millions of pounds invested in the Lloyd's of London insurance market was siphoned off to pay for luxury yachts, homes and racetracks, according to three reports drawn up by Department of Trade and Industry. Pages 21, 23

Degree places

Vacancies for degree courses in physical sciences, medicine, dentistry and biological sciences at universities, polytechnics and colleges are published today. Page 33
Places for modern languages, engineering technology and maths will appear tomorrow.

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THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

American 'cold warriors' scent danger in Soviet co-operation

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN WASHINGTON

OLD habits die hard. American experts and pundits alike are wondering what profits the Soviet Union hopes to draw from its first foray into co-operation with the United States.

President Bush has described Moscow's performance in supporting the United Nations votes to enforce sanctions as superb. But for the nostalgic cold warriors of the press and the intelligence community only something sinister can explain President Gorbachev's willingness to fall into step and brand President Saddam Hussein, his long-time Middle East ally, a traitor.

The CIA has been busily leaking reports of opposition within the Soviet foreign ministry and military to the policy set by Mr Gorbachev and Eduard Shevard-

nadze, his foreign minister. According to these reports, some Soviet supplies are still reaching Iraq in defiance of the UN embargo and rogue personnel of the GRU military intelligence are feeding data on American deployments to the Iraqis who have been their close partners since 1972.

As evidence of the anonymous US officials are citing the public remarks by Colonel Valentin Ogurtsov of the Soviet defence ministry that 193 Soviet military experts are seeing out their contractual obligations to Iraq.

Some reports circulating in Washington suggest that the Soviet military were also told in advance of President Saddam's plans to attack Kuwait, but this would appear to be contradicted by Mr Gorbachev's patent anger over the Iraqi leader's assurance to him on the eve of his invasion that

he had no plans to move against the emirate.

Some sceptics see the Soviet Union as also playing a machiavellian game whose goal is to ensnare the United States in a military and diplomatic quagmire. At the State Department they say the theories of Soviet complicity with Iraq are as unfounded as the other canard according to which Moscow has been feeding the Americans secret data about the Iraqi military. The report between James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Shevardnadze is certainly warm, but mutual trust has not yet reached that level.

Another suspicious line holds that as an exporter, the Soviet Union stands to reap a windfall from the turmoil on world oil markets. Each dollar increase in the barrel price is said to add \$2

billion (£1.03 billion) a year to the Soviet hard-currency earnings.

But the administration and most diplomats see a simpler explanation for Soviet motives in the Gulf: the Kremlin has much to gain from eschewing its old tactic of maximising American discomfort and falling in with the more moderate Western line. Soviet interests now coincide with Washington's to a remarkable degree. The Gulf confrontation has enabled Mr Gorbachev to demonstrate Moscow's good faith as a born-again member of the world community. The Kremlin's attempts to distance itself from its radical Middle Eastern friends have also been bolstered.

According to George Steinbruner, an expert at the Brookings Institute in Washington, "the Soviets have done it very adroitly. They have said 'we want to be in

your alliance' while honouring their past commitments as best they can".

Seen from Washington, Moscow is now steering a middle line, winning favour with Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the two moderate Arab states that it was already wooing, while keeping ties with Iraq and positioning itself as a broker for peace-making.

Mr Shevardnadze is reported to have told Mr Baker by telephone that, barring some big Iraqi provocation, Moscow will go no further in enforcing sanctions and does not plan a police role unless the UN organises its own command. Further evidence of the Kremlin's neutral course came from the foreign ministry's sniping on Tuesday at Washington's expulsion of Iraqi diplomats.

American policy-makers are now looking at ways of capital-

ising on the new confluence of interests with Moscow. For a start they are banking on the new strategic balance in the Middle East as a factor that will restrain President Saddam from further ventures if he is forced out of Kuwait with his forces intact. President Bush has made clear this week that he is not aiming to go beyond Kuwait and destroy the Iraqi leader with American force. He hopes that international solidarity will deter the Iraqi leader from future ventures.

After their support for America's initiatives, Moscow can now be expected to seek faster concessions from Washington and the West. "I think we will have to say OK, we acknowledge that you did help out and it is useful for us to be more forthcoming," one policy expert said.

Paul Nitze, the one-time hawk

who served several presidents, is one of many former officials now urging Mr Bush to seize the confrontation in the Middle East to cement the basis of co-operation with Moscow.

Collaboration is still fragile. The president, he said, should make much of the common interest in averting the rise of a radical Muslim bloc in the region. President Gorbachev, he said, always made much of this shared goal in his talks with the Reagan administration.

Mr Nitze suggested that the best way of "transforming the Kuwait crisis into a door to a more favourable future" would be to move rapidly to an agreement on cutting long-range nuclear armaments. Washington and Moscow should promote measures at the UN against the spread of nuclear weapons, he suggested.

Thatcher demands release of all Westerners

FROM NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT
IN HELSINKI

THE prime minister yesterday demanded that President Saddam Hussein release all Western hostages held in Iraq and Kuwait as she responded robustly to reports that the Iraqi leader was planning to free women and children.

Giving no indication that her fierce denunciation of President Saddam's conduct has been mollified by his latest move, she said: "I hope that all men, women and children who are held in Baghdad and Kuwait would have a similar freedom to travel."

Accusing President Saddam of "hiding behind the skirts of women" and of harsh, callous and ruthless behaviour, Mrs Thatcher suggested that his latest move was an indication that he was beginning to realise the extent of his crime under intense international pressure.

Mrs Thatcher also echoed the description by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, of President Saddam playing "cat and mouse" with Western nationals. "He is beginning to recognise things he should not have done," she said. "The women and children should never have been held, nor indeed should the men."

Mrs Thatcher disclosed that the British ambassador in Baghdad was trying to get confirmation that the Iraqi leader's latest offer was still on the table. British airlines were ready to fly and wanted to file precise flight plans.

Speaking at a press conference in Helsinki, where she is on a three-day official visit, Mrs Thatcher promised to consult her cabinet colleagues on Neil Kinnock's request for a recall of Parliament to debate the Gulf emergency. "When I get back I



Coffee break: Margaret Thatcher and Harri Holkeri, the Finnish prime minister, pausing during their talks in Helsinki yesterday.

will attend to his letter and consult my colleagues," she said, adding that Sir Geoffrey Howe, the leader of the House of Commons, could doubtless be reached in Australia, where he is on holiday.

Mrs Thatcher returns to Britain later today after addressing centre-right politicians gathered in Helsinki for the conference of the European Democratic Union. The tone of her remarks suggested that a parliamentary debate on the

Gulf may not be far away. She emphasised that Britain and her international partners were relying on the United Nations' resolution and the "rigorous" enforcement of the trade embargo on Iraq to settle the Gulf confrontation and force President Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait and restore its legitimate government.

The meeting today in Amman, the capital of Jordan, between Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN

secretary-general, and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, would not be a negotiating session, she said.

The question that the secretary-general would be pursuing was the "implementation" of the UN resolutions, Mrs Thatcher said. There was no need for a mediator in the Gulf confrontation; the policy agreed by the UN Security Council was clear. She again refused to give a deadline for the

policy to prove effective and for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Sanctions would "take a time to work," she did not know how long, but the policy would be persevered with and reviewed. The option of using military force had not been ruled out.

Earlier, the prime minister had cited the pivotal role of the United States in the Gulf emergency to emphasise its importance to discussions on the future security

structure of Europe. She told Finnish businessmen that the US was "the world policeman" and could not be left out of such decision-making.

Her remarks amounted to a rebuff to those pressing for the European Community to assume greater responsibility for defence and foreign affairs in Europe.

Mrs Thatcher argued that the Helsinki-based 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe was the right forum in which to shape a new European order in the wake of changes such as German unification and the collapse of the Warsaw pact.

She pointed out that the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe included both superpowers and she praised the US, hailing it as a champion of free enterprise and one of the most generous countries in the world. "We can depend on them as a policeman for us to protect our principles," she said.

Mrs Thatcher has been critical of the pace at which the other members of the EC decided to commit military forces to the Gulf. She believes it failed a key test of its pretensions to a broader political and military role and she is pointing to its hesitancy in the face of Iraqi aggression to justify her narrower vision of its future place in world affairs. She is expected to underline this point in her speech today to the European Democratic Union.

At talks yesterday with Harri Holkeri, the Finnish prime minister, Mrs Thatcher said that Finland's neutrality was no barrier to its applying for EC membership.

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HOSTAGES

Airlift is ready as Saddam 'plays cat and mouse'

By ANDREW MCWEEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday accepted President Saddam's apparent offer to release the women and children he holds hostage, but accused the Iraqi leader of playing a cat and mouse game and of trying to distract attention from Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

British diplomats in Baghdad and London were trying to establish whether Iraq intended the exodus to proceed.

The US State Department said it had been told that the women and children would be allowed to leave. This was confirmed by Abdul Razzak al-Hashimi, Iraq's ambassador to France, in an interview with Independent Television News.

The Foreign Office said later that it had received indications that the exodus would go ahead, but this was not sufficient. Britain could not send passenger aircraft to pick up the hostages without definite word that they would be allowed to land and that the hostages would be there.

Reports from Baghdad said that the authorities yesterday began giving women and children permission to leave, but that their departure could not take place until today.

Amr al-Salibi, the Iraqi ambassador in London, was called to the Foreign Office and asked for confirmation of President Saddam's decision. He was asked to convey a request that Baghdad and Kuwait airports should be opened so that aircraft could be sent to collect the hostages.

Mr Hurd said Britain had also asked that the military blockade of the British embassy in Kuwait be lifted so that British diplomats could help to organise the departure of the women and children. This was not a condition for acceptance of the offer but a practical suggestion.

Mr Hurd described President Saddam's offer as a small but welcome step away from illegality and inhumanity, but expressed revulsion about his tactics. "It is a cat and mouse game - now a little mercy, now some more ruthlessness," he said.

Britain had to do its best to get the women and children out, but this should not detract from the main objective of getting Iraq to leave Kuwait, he said, adding: "We are now in a phase where Saddam Hussein is trying through cat and mouse (measures) to soften up Western opinion."

Flights ready: At two British airports, volunteer crews were on standby as negotiations continued between the Foreign Office and officials in Baghdad (Mark Souster and Ray Clancy write).

Virgin Atlantic, the airline owned by Richard Branson, was ready to leave Gatwick at a moment's notice in an operation codenamed Britfit. A few miles away at Heathrow, British Airways put the finishing touches to its contingency plan to airlift British women and children.

"We are waiting for the Government to give us the thumbs-up and are ready to carry out a thorough and professional operation as soon as possible," a BA spokesman said. A team has been working on the plan since the invasion of Kuwait, when a BA jet en route to Madras was stranded at Kuwait airport after it stopped to refuel.

Mr Branson said he has been in touch with the Iraqi embassy in London to try to secure permission for a Boeing 747 from his airline land in Baghdad. Within hours of the news from Baghdad that Western women and children were free to leave the country, two crews of 15 had volunteered for the mercy mission.

He said he was prepared to dispatch scheduled flights to get the airlift off the ground and a team of nurses and doctors would be on board.

The Gulf Support Group which set up a helpline for relatives in Britain reacted with extreme caution to news of the release, and said that the hundreds of calls received yesterday showed that families are taking it one step at a time.

GERMANY

13 killed in Gulf ferry plane crash

FROM REUTER IN RAMSTEIN

A GIANT US Air Force transport plane crashed and burst into flames in West Germany yesterday, killing 13 people in the worst loss of life since the Gulf military build-up began. The C-5A Galaxy was flying as part of the American "Operation Desert Shield" to ferry troops and equipment to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

It ploughed through trees into a field a few hundred yards from the end of the runway just after taking off from Ramstein air force base west of Frankfurt.

US Air Force officials in Ramstein said the crash was not likely to slow down the transport of troops to the Gulf. Brigadier-General Richard Swope told a news conference in Ramstein some 12 hours after the crash that the runway was already back in service.

Officials said that there were four survivors who were in "stable and good condition" at the nearby Landstuhl US Army medical centre.

The C-5A was carrying medical supplies, food and maintenance equipment to Rhine-Main air force base, a 20-minute flight away. Its crew were all from Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, air force spokesmen said.

The accident occurred five miles from a US chemical weapons depot in Miesau, where thousands of poison-gas shells are stored awaiting shipment to be destroyed in the Pacific. The chemical arms are packed in leak-proof containers in the open air, and the shipments continued as planned yesterday.

The opposition Social Democrats called for the grounding of all military flights over Ramstein while the road-and-rail chemical arms shipments were going on. The pacifist Green party demanded an end to all military flights over West Germany and to the use of bases on German soil for the airlift for the Gulf confrontation.

C-5As are being used extensively in the Gulf build-up and are regarded as exceptionally safe. The last accident of this type occurred in Saigon about 15 years ago, US military officials said. More than 75 yards long, C-5As can carry either 360 troops, two M1 tanks, 16 lorries, six Apache attack helicopters or ten Pershing missiles.

AMMAN

Fragile stability threatened by sanctions and geography

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN AMMAN

NORMALLY relaxed Jordanian soldiers now examine permits and papers with unusually nervous suspicion at Amman airport. At the Ruweisid crossing point between Jordan and Iraq thousands of Asian and other refugees sleep on the ground with little or no food and water because emergency centres in and around the capital are full to overflowing. At the port of Aqaba, the docks are largely silent.

Jordan, the venue for today's talks between Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, and Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, has become a focus of attention.

But Jordan is a country under siege, a victim of the UN sanctions against Baghdad, to which it has reluctantly acceded, and a victim of its geography. Under King Hussein it has survived through a live-and-let-live approach to Israel, while proving its value to Iraq and Saudi Arabia as a buffer between Israel and the Arab world. The present political and economic strains, however, threaten Jordan's fragile stability. The Gulf conflict is the most serious King Hussein and Jordan have faced.

Some analysis sees economic difficulties as the foremost danger. Ziad Fariz, the industry minister, fears the economy will become unmanageable. Fahd Faniek, a leading Jordanian economist, regards the virtual standstill at

Aqaba as a devastating blow which will double the already high unemployment rate.

In the short run there is no doubt that the West is belatedly coming to Jordan's aid to help it cope both with the effects of UN sanctions and the refugees. But long-standing observers of Jordan fear that in the long run Jordan will lose the standing it once had in Western eyes because of its behaviour during the confrontation with Iraq.

Western television viewers have been disconcerted to see such an obviously English-educated figure as Crown Prince Hassan, the king's brother, espousing views which appear uncomfortably close to those of President Saddam Hussein.

Jordanian officials, on the other



King Hussein: bound by long alliance with Baghdad

hand, argue that King Hussein and the crown prince see the conflict in terms of Arab haves versus have-nots. Jordan, with its few resources, is among the have-nots, and is bound by its ten-year alliance with Iraq.

One diplomat said: "The flexibility and stability of the Hashemite monarchy is not to be underestimated. I wouldn't count King Hussein out even now. The West must make more of an effort to understand the Arab cast of mind."

The Jordanian argument is that Iraq's annexation of Kuwait is wrong, but that an Arab solution must be found.

● PARIS: Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, was received by Michel Rocard, the French prime minister, at his official residence yesterday, so continuing the convolutions of French foreign policy over the Gulf confrontation (Philip Jacobson writes).

Mr Arafat reportedly asked for the meeting after his recent visits to Iraq and Yemen. At the end of the session he said he still believed a political solution could be achieved in the Gulf.

In Geneva the PLO supported the replacement of "American and other foreign forces" by "international forces under the flag of the United Nations and within their framework", according to an address delivered yesterday on Mr Arafat's behalf.

DIPLOMACY

Britain adamant on concessions to Iraq

By OUR DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MRS Thatcher is expected to reject important elements of a peace plan promoted by King Hussein of Jordan when they meet in London tomorrow.

She and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who is to visit Jordan as part of a six-nation Middle East tour, are opposed to any plan which involves concessions to Iraq. King Hussein's proposals are understood to entail an independent or autonomous Kuwait, conceding certain rights to Iraq. After an Iraqi withdrawal, a plebiscite or a general election would be held in Kuwait to decide what form of government it should have.

The British government does not accept that the ruling al-Sabah family of Kuwait, traditional friends of Britain, should be cast aside in the interests of peace. Mr Hurd is expected to emphasise Britain's support for them by meeting Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, the Emir, in Saudi Arabia during his tour. Although Kuwait was not a democracy in the Western sense, the government feels that its former rulers are "descent".

Mrs Thatcher was on closer terms with King Hussein than any other Arab leader, until he declined to condemn the Iraqi invasion. The government still regards him as a friend, and hopes he may yet agree to the full implementation of trade sanctions against Iraq. Britain, like the United States, will make clear to

the king that substantial financial aid will be made available if he stops supplies moving across the Jordanian-Iraqi border.

His plan cuts across the main objective of a second phase of British diplomacy on the Gulf, which has just begun. The government hopes to persuade other countries to give trade sanctions a substantial period to work, believing that as shortages appear in Iraq, support for President Saddam will crumble.

In arguing for patience, it has set itself against any early settlement - and therefore against both the king and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. But it is also opposed to the early use of military force, which puts it in conflict with the right wing of American public opinion. A third obstacle would arise if pressure built up for negotiations to free hostages taken by Iraq, but there is no sign of this yet. The government appears to be more worried about opinion in the United States and among certain Arab leaders.

In his tour of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, Mr Hurd will say that sanctions will take months to work but should eventually succeed.

Arab governments have asked him to show that Britain has not forgotten the Arab-Israeli conflict, in which it has always called on Israel to leave the occupied territories. He plans to meet this request.

UN strapped for cash even as its prestige grows

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

JOHN Bolton, the US Assistant Secretary of State for international organisation affairs, stood outside the United Nations headquarters this week, where flags from 159 nations flutter in the breeze, and announced to television cameras that August had been "the most historic month in the 45-year history of the UN".

Although apparently harmless, Mr Bolton had to get approval for the statement directly from Robert Kimmitt, the Under Secretary of State. The television quotation provoked some amusement within the headquarters building, where officials complain about the United States being more than half a billion dollars in arrears in

its payments. Largely because of American delay in paying, the world body has only enough money in the bank to keep its electricity connected until the end of October. Yet suddenly it has become the guarantor of world peace it was always intended to be.

At America's urging, the security council passed five resolutions this month condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. In addition, the council's five permanent members this week agreed to support an unprecedented multi-billion-dollar UN operation to bring peace to Cambodia.

UN officials and diplomats alike are wondering how the organisation is going to cope. "How the hell are we going to adapt the mechanism if the

United Nations is going to have all these changes?" a senior Western diplomat asked yesterday. "My answer is that those who are in arrears should pay up."

President Bush, a former American envoy to the UN, is committed to the Reagan administration's goal of paying the arrears within five years. But Congress, hamstrung by budget-reduction provisions, has failed to authorise the money. UN officials hope the blaze of publicity about the organisation will prompt Congress to cough up the funds.

The money will be sorely needed if the UN is to play a central role in the post-Cold War world. American officials estimate that the Cambodian peace plan alone could cost \$3 billion to \$5

billion (£1.54 billion to £2.56 billion) over two years. The body is also expected to compensate countries which suffer serious economic problems caused by complying with the UN-mandated trade embargo on Iraq. Jordan alone says its losses will run to \$2 billion a year.

America has always been the organisation's main source of funds, contributing 25 per cent of its regular budget and about 32 per cent of the cost of its peacekeeping operations. But now there is a new response when sceptical reporters ask where the money will come from: Japan.

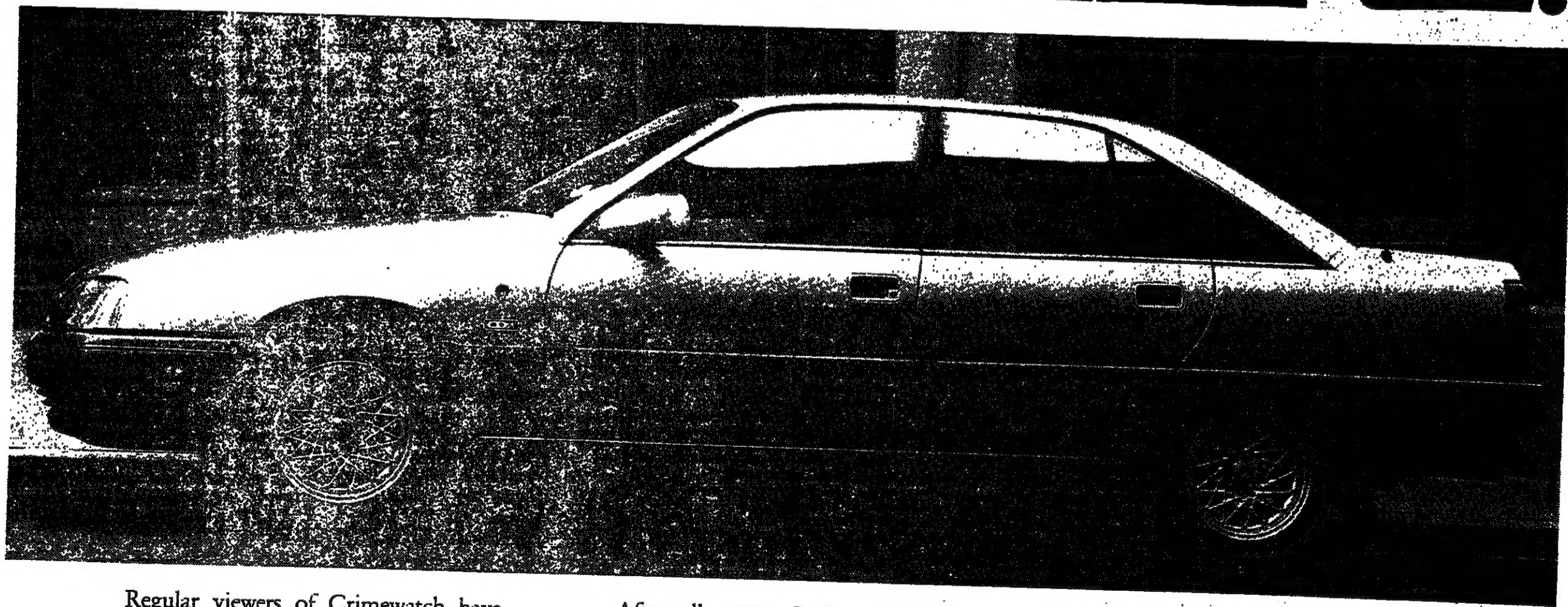
Eager to assert greater international influence, Japan is said to be willing to compensate Jordan for respecting the sanctions and to

be ready to finance the Cambodian operation, which could involve 10,000 UN troops and a similar number of its civilian staff.

Although this is a short-term solution, Japan's growing financial power within the organisation will inevitably lead to pressure for institutional changes. Like India and Brazil, Japan has long sought a place alongside Britain, China, France, the United States and the Soviet Union as a permanent member of the security council, with veto powers.

But no action is likely soon because of the array of countries with an interest in keeping matters as they are. One envoy said: "There will be learned professors waving their fingers around for the next ten years on that."

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Tribunal is sought to tackle miscarriage of justice cases

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Secretary's referral of the Birmingham Six cases to the Court of Appeal, only months after the freeing of the Guildford Four, was seen yesterday as adding overwhelming pressure to the case for new machinery to tackle alleged miscarriages of justice.

A number of judges, as well as both branches of the legal profession and groups in the forefront of the campaign for reform, are calling for a new kind of independent tribunal or review body to take on the job of investigating such cases. Yesterday Lord Scarman, the retired law lord, called for an independent judicial authority, perhaps based on the Privy Council, to examine such cases.

There is also widespread support for an overhaul of the Court of Appeal, which has been criticised for being too restrictive in

exercising its powers to set aside convictions or to order a retrial. Peter Ashman, legal officer of Justice, one of the leading pressure groups, said: "The referral back of the Birmingham Six cases makes the case for reform of the machinery for dealing with miscarriages of justice overwhelming. If these cases have gone back, after such an exhaustive appeal in which every issue was exhaustively explained... surely the time has come for a complete rethink about the Court of Appeal goes about its business."

Justice wants legislation to widen its powers so it can take on more of an investigative role, weighing all the evidence in a case, ordering new hearings of disputed evidence and initiating its own enquiries.

The Court of Appeal "should be much less a referee of the system and much more a general court of review, which feels free to come to its own conclusion on issues of

guilt or innocence and is not bound by the verdict of the jury", Mr Ashman said.

Justice was hoping that the enquiry now under way into the Guildford Four and Maguire cases would make recommendations along those lines, he added. If it had not reported by the time the government published its criminal justice bill in the autumn, however, Justice planned to seek a change in the law via an amendment to that bill.

Mr Ashman's views were echoed by Sir Frederick Lawton, the retired senior Court of Appeal judge, who sat on the original appeal on the Birmingham Six cases, though he was cautious about the implications of the referring back of those cases. "I don't think any of us knows exactly yet all the facts relating to this reference and until we do, we can't draw any inferences."

But he acknowledged the case for reforming the powers of the

Court of Appeal. "At present the court has to deal with a case on the basis of the evidence and submissions put before it. It has no power to initiate its own enquiries, and even if it wanted to, it would have no means of making them." The court, he said, should have a senior police officer attached to it, able to recruit a team.

On the need for an independent review body, Lord Scarman yesterday said: "We have got to deal with all alleged miscarriages of justice in a way people can see is going to be really fair." An independent judicial authority, comparable to the Privy Council, could be given jurisdiction to deal with alleged miscarriages and relieve the Court of Appeal in cases such as the Birmingham Six and conduct enquiries.

"If a case has gone through all the steps of trial and the Court of Appeal, and the convictions are upheld, and after that matters arise that indicate a miscarriage of

justice, such a case should not go back to the Court of Appeal but to a body like the Privy Council," Lord Scarman said.

"The present system is putting a burden on the Court of Appeal which is very, very difficult for anybody to carry." The judges were being asked to look critically at institutions of which they were crucial members. "I know they are trained to be independent, but it is asking a lot of human nature," he added.

The judicial committee of the Privy Council could take on this role with minimal reorganisation and legislation. It has already been given a constitutional role in reviewing legislation by the Scottish Assembly that was alleged to be ultra vires, although the power, in the Scotland Act 1979, was never enacted.

The mounting pressure for reform of the system came with the release last autumn of the Guildford Four. A number of

groups, including the Bar and the Law Society, as well as Justice, and prominent legal figures, have since highlighted what they see as its defects.

Justice, in its report on miscarriages of justice last year, concluded that the present system was "wholly inadequate". An independent review body should be set up, it said, with powers of a tribunal of enquiry, to take on the job of investigating such cases and which would seek the truth in cases involving difficult issue of fact.

On the Court of Appeal it concluded that "the restrictive manner in which the Court of Appeal interprets its powers appears at times to be ineffective in curing miscarriages of justice on appeal." Reference back to the Court of Appeal would be limited to matters of law and procedure, it proposed.

Although the Court of Appeal is supposed to test the soundness of

a conviction according to the subjective test of whether it has a "lurking doubt" about that conviction, it is ignored by many judges, Justice maintains. It says that recent research shows that the Court of Appeal assesses the soundness of a conviction not by reference to the probable guilt or innocence of the person convicted, but instead by reference to the fairness of the trial.

During the period studied, from April to August 1989, Justice said that not one appeal was allowed on the ground that the court had a lurking doubt about the soundness of the conviction and although the court had had the power to do so since April 1989, no retrial had been ordered.

The Bar has also criticised the Court of Appeal as being too cautious in ordering retrials, and the Home Secretary for referring back to the court only those cases where there is fresh evidence casting doubt on the verdict.

Police investigation prompted decision to refer case to court

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE home secretary's decision to refer the cases of the Birmingham Six back to the Court of Appeal for a second time was prompted by information supplied by Devon and Cornwall detectives who have been examining the original police investigation into the 1974 public house bombings.

The force has found apparent discrepancies in the police record of an interview conducted by West Midlands detectives with Richard McKelvey, one of the six Irishmen convicted of the atrocities which left 21 civilians dead and 161 injured in what remains, the worst IRA attack perpetrated on mainland Britain.

In March, Geoffrey Dear, then chief constable of the West Midlands force, asked Devon and Cornwall police to scrutinise certain "new" matters relating to the investigation which had been brought to the home office's attention by lawyers representing the six. Campaigners for the six and the home office have studiously refused to comment further, but it is understood the points relate to the times at which the six were initially interviewed.

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In the past campaigns have claimed that detectives, some of whom "belonged" to the former West Midlands Police Serious Crimes Squad, disabused a year ago amid allegations of police corruption, deliberately falsified the times at which interviews were conducted, as well as parts of the suspects' evidence, to disguise the brutal beatings they allegedly meted out to the suspects.

The Home Office, which last referred the cases to the Appeal Court in January 1987, said the record had been subjected to a new test called electro-static analysis. This has suggested that "some pages may have been written at a different time". It said: "The

home secretary has decided that the Court of Appeal should have the opportunity to consider the significance of this new development in relation to the safety of the convictions of the six men."

All the men were said to have freely confessed their guilt to police shortly after five of them were arrested on November 24, 1974 in Heysham, Lancashire. They said they were travelling to Ireland for a friend's funeral.

The confessions, later retracted by the defendants who claimed they were the fruit of police beatings and psychological torture, were one of the two main planks of the Crown's case at the ensuing trial, at Lancaster Crown Court in the summer of 1975. The other plank was provided by forensic tests by Dr Frank Skuse, a home office scientist, who said the results showed beyond doubt that two of the men had handled nitroglycerine, the main constituent in bombs used in the Birmingham bombings. That August the six were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Doubts began emerging early on about the safety of the convictions. These were inspired by the IRA's denial that any of the six were or had been in the IRA, by the strong evidence that the men had been assaulted at some point in their first few days of custody and by campaigners' claims that Dr Skuse's tests had not been conducted properly.

It was claimed that the tests, based on the Griess procedure, since replaced by a more accurate method, had simply detected traces of nitro-cellulose, a non-incriminating substance found in many household items, including playing cards. The men said they had been playing cards shortly before their arrest.

During their trial, the six gave



The Birmingham Six: the top photographs, left to right, show Patrick Hill, Hugh Callaghan, John Walker and the bottom photographs, left to right, are of Richard McKelvey, Gerard Hunter and William Power

Six grew up in Catholic areas of Ulster but 'disowned' IRA

By CRAIG SETON

THE Six grew up in Catholic areas of Northern Ireland. They went to England as young men to seek work and eventually settled in Birmingham, married and raised their families.

Richard McKelvey, now aged 55, a former cook in the Irish army, left his Belfast home in 1956 to settle in Birmingham where he and his wife Kate raised their five daughters and a son. Two of McKelvey's brothers were interned and another survived a sectarian murder attempt in Belfast. McKelvey worked at a forgings factory in Birmingham at the time of the bombings. He frequented the Crossways public house in the city, where collections were taken for internees' families in Ulster. He admitted that he slightly knew James McDade, another Belfast

man who had settled in Birmingham and who a week before the pub bombings blew himself up planting a bomb at the Coventry telephone exchange. Five of the six were on their way to McDade's funeral in Belfast when they were arrested at Heysham.

McKenny told police he had republican sympathies, but that his feelings were not strong. He claimed that he had always been sickened by IRA bombings. After his arrest, his wife and children fled to Belfast because of threats made by neighbours and others.

Billy Power, married with four children, came to England from Belfast in 1963. He went to the same Catholic school as another member of the six, Gerard Hunter, and James McDade and later met both in Birmingham. A few months before the pub bombings,

McDade went to stay at Power's house in the city. Power said after his arrest and he repeated it since: "I have no republican sympathies. I do not understand politics. I only know there have been injustices on both sides."

Robert Gerard Hunter, aged 44, left school in Belfast at the age of 15 and held down various jobs before moving to England when he was 17. A painter by trade, he settled down in a Birmingham council house with his wife Sandra and three children. He was a regular at the Crossways pub, but he told police: "Although I have republican sympathies, I do not believe the IRA bombing campaign will achieve anything."

Hunter was the only one of the six against whom there was no direct evidence. He was convicted on the statements of four of the others, but apparently is not bitter that they implicated him.

Families were at heart of campaign

By CRAIG SETON

THE campaign to free the Birmingham Six mushroomed a year before the 1987 Appeal Court hearing and came to encompass MPs and churchmen, solicitors and barristers, writers, television programme makers and others in Britain and Ireland.

Volunteers set up campaign headquarters in Birmingham, London and Dublin. At the heart of the campaign has always been the families of the men. Their spirits have veered between elation or depression as their efforts have either shown progress or faltered.

Vital to the campaign has been Kate McKelvey, the wife of Richard McKelvey, and her five daughters and son. Before the case became a prominent national issue, they tirelessly wrote letters seeking support and addressed poorly attended public meetings.

McKenny's daughter Maggie, aged 24, described yesterday how appeals for support gradually were answered: "I did not have a social life. My telephone was always ringing and my answer phone was always full of messages. My own children hardly ever see me."

"All the members of the six families are victims. Our pain has continued for 16 long years. I do not think anybody can understand the campaign and anguish we have been through."

Television programmes have been important. In 1985 Granada's *World in Action* questioned the forensic evidence produced at the trial of the six men and a year later reported allegations by a former West Midlands constable that appeared to support claims that the men had been beaten in police custody. Earlier this year Granada broadcast "Who Bombed Birmingham?", a programme that purported to reveal the identity of the real bombers.

Of the MPs who have campaigned for the release of the six men, Chris Mullin, the Labour member for Sunderland South, has been most prominent. In 1986 he published his book on the case *Error of Judgement*.

In Ireland, meanwhile, the announcement that the case will go back to the Court of Appeal was welcomed by the prime minister, Charles Haughey. He said he hoped that the interests of justice in a protracted case was now close to an early and satisfactory resolution. He said that Irish politicians, friends, relatives and supporters of the six, North and South, believed that the door was now open for justice to be done.

The deputy leader of Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party, Seamus Mallon, said that there was now a clear recognition that something had been "rotten" during the trial of the six. The case should not be subjected to further legal delay.



The waiting family: Kate McKelvey, wife of Richard McKelvey, one of the Birmingham Six, with two of their five daughters, Siobhan, left, and Maggie, right. The couple also have a son

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

November 21, 1974: Bombings at the Mulberry Bush and the Tavern in the Town, Birmingham, leave 21 dead, 162 injured. Five men arrested three hours later at Heysham, Lancashire, after leaving Irish boat-train from Birmingham. Six arrested later in Birmingham.

November 23: IRA says none of the six are members.

November 24: Patrick Hill, Hugh Callaghan, John Walker, Richard McKelvey, Gerard Hunter and Billy Power charged with murder.

June 1975: Trial at Lancaster Crown Court. Frank Skuse, Home Office forensic scientist, says two of six handled explosives. Accused say they were tortured into making confessions.

August: Six sentenced to life imprisonment.

December: Fourteen prison officers charged with assaulting the prisoners. All 14 later acquitted.

March 1976: Court of Appeal refuses leave for the six to challenge convictions.

November 1977: Six unsuccessful in suing police for assault.

October 1985: Granada Television's *World in Action* questions reliability of forensic tests. Three days later Home Office orders Dr Skuse's early retirement for "limited efficiency".

July 1986: Christopher Mullin, MP, publishes *Error of Judgement*, saying bombings carried out by three un-named men living in Republic of Ireland.

January 1987: Home Secretary refers case back to Court of Appeal and announces enquiry by Devon and Cornwall Police.

January 1988: Appeal dismissed, with allegations by two former police officers of violence and intimidation of the six.

April: Leave of appeal to Lords denied.

October 1989: Home Secretary orders release of Guildford Four, who also alleged fabricated evidence, intimidation and assault by police. Judicial enquiry into Guildford Four, and Maguire Seven, jailed for possessing explosives.

December: Birmingham Six downgraded from prison category A to B. Solicitors for the six submit new material to Home Office.

January 1990: West Midlands police admit that 2,000 statements, some allegedly supporting alibi by six at 1975 trial, have been shredded.

February: Six refuse parole. Will accept only declaration of innocence.

March 21: Home Secretary announces limited police enquiry by Devon and Cornwall Police into new material.

March 28: Granada's *Who Bombed Birmingham?* based on Mr Mullin's research names four of five alleged real bombers. Condemned by Mrs Thatcher as trial by television.

July: Granada interview with unidentified man who confessed to planting bombs.

August: Details of detectives facing allegations of fabricating evidence as members of disbanded West Midlands serious crime squad passed to Devon and Cornwall police enquiry.

Analysis technique can show a statement has been doctored

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AN INVENTION developed in a garage chalked up another success yesterday when the Home Secretary referred the case of the Birmingham Six to the Appeal Court. Forensic scientists working for the Devon and Cornwall Police had found "apparent discrepancies" in the record of an interview with one of the six, Richard McKelvey, a statement from the Home Office said.

The technique they used, Electrostatic Document Analysis (ESDA), was invented by two research workers at the London College of Printing in the 1970s. Bob Freeman, a physicist, and Doug

Foster, a chemist, now run a business with a turnover of £1.5 million a year, exporting their machines from premises in Evesham, Hereford and Worcester.

They found a way of detecting the indentations made in successive sheets of paper when the top sheet is written on. The pressure of a pen, particularly a ballpoint, leaves a pattern of indentations on the lower sheets of, say, a policeman's notebook which can be read using ESDA. So long as they match the actual writing on the sheets above, all is well. But if any words have been added later when the sheets are not lying on top of one another, they can be detected.

The method first achieved prominence in forensic science in 1987 when it was used by Tom Davis, a lecturer in English at Birmingham university, to show up discrepancies in the written version of a confession by Paul Dandy, who was charged with armed robbery by the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad. Ewan Smith, Mr Dandy's solicitor, asked Mr Davis to help.

Mr Davis started searching through the police evidence, page by page, and found a sentence had apparently been added to the statement after Mr Dandy had signed it. It read: "Well, it's very clever of you to have caught me, but now you're going to have

to prove it, aren't you?" Mr Dandy denied having said it. "The implication was that it was made up," Mr Davis said. The case against Mr Dandy was dropped.

Since then, a large number of cases have collapsed or been thrown out of court on the evidence of ESDA. In January 1988 cases against six defendants in two armed robbery cases were dropped after the defence sought to have their alleged confessions run through the ESDA machine. The prosecution responded by saying that the statements had been lost, and the case collapsed.

The success of ESDA depends on records being made in the conventional

way, in a notebook with the impressions of each page going through to the one beneath. Its very success is likely to lead to changes in police practice, at least among the less scrupulous members of the force. No policeman planning to embroider a confession nowadays would do so in a way that could be detected by ESDA. He would use of felt-tip pen, which makes smaller indentations than a ballpoint, and rest each successive sheet on the desk, not on the sheet below.

Some 700 machines have been sold worldwide, and the company has diversified into other instruments useful to forensic scientists.

In Ireland, meanwhile, the announcement that the case will go back to the Court of Appeal was welcomed by the prime minister, Charles Haughey. He said he hoped that the interests of justice in a protracted case was now close to an early and satisfactory resolution. He said that Irish politicians, friends, relatives and supporters of the six, North and South, believed that the door was now open for justice to be done.

The deputy leader of Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party, Seamus Mallon, said that there was now a clear recognition that something had been "rotten" during the trial of the six. The case should not be subjected to further legal delay.



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Thatcher's appeal for tunnel cash under fire

By PETER MULLIGAN

The prime minister was criticised yesterday for writing to the Japanese government on behalf of the Channel tunnel project, which is seeking further funding.

Margaret Thatcher's personal intervention was attacked by a senior Labour spokesman who said he had no doubt that she had been canvassing the Japanese for financial support for the Channel tunnel. John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, said he was surprised that she should go begging "cap in hand" to Japanese bankers to provide more money to complete Britain's essential infrastructure. He said that the commercial judgment of the Japanese banks

was against further investment in the tunnel, but the political pressure on the prime minister meant that the money was needed.

Calling for the letter to be published, Mr Prescott described the project as one of the prime minister's sinking flagships which she was desperately trying to keep afloat. Downing Street confirmed that the letter had been sent about three weeks ago to Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister of Japan, but declined to disclose its contents. "We do not disclose the contents of letters between heads of government. She was drawing to Mr Kaifu's attention what an impressive thing the Channel tunnel project is."

A response had not been received and was not necessarily expected.

Ronald Fearn, the Liberal Democrat's transport spokesman, said that there was nothing wrong in approaching the Japanese for more investment, "but the fact she has had to do it is symptomatic of the government's macro-economic mismanagement". The prime minister's efforts should go into finding ways of making the project more attractive to British and other European investors.

A spokeswoman for Eurotunnel, the company that will operate the tunnel once it is completed, said that the company had not been involved with the letter and had not seen its contents. "We do not have anything to say about it at all." She declined to confirm that Eurotunnel is still seeking a further £800 million out of an extra £2 billion required to complete the project. Eurotunnel has requested extra funds from about 210 banks, many of them Japanese, and is waiting for all of them to respond. Their responses were arriving in dribs and drabs, the spokeswoman said. It was hoped that they will all have replied within the next fortnight.

The company has already been granted emergency access to bank lending facilities so that work on the project can continue for another month while efforts to find extra funding continue. Eurotunnel has been given until the middle of September to raise the additional funds after admitting that it could not meet an earlier deadline of August 31. A planned £500 million rights issue could be postponed until next year if the funds are not found.

David Shaw, Conservative MP for Dover and a critic of the Channel tunnel project, said that he was not certain that a prime ministerial letter to Mr Kaifu would affect Japanese bankers. He said of Mrs Thatcher's letter: "I think it is unfortunate that it is necessary. The project should not have been started unless the banks were prepared to take all the risks."

Rules on business interests 'unclear'

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

RULES governing the outside business interests of chairmen of development corporations are to be tightened after an admission by the environment department that its advice on the issue had been confusing.

The decision follows the publication yesterday of the findings of an independent enquiry into the conduct of Hugh Sykes, chairman of Sheffield Development Corporation. The investigation cleared Mr Sykes of any impropriety but criticised civil servants for advising him that he could remain chairman of a property investment company operating within the development corporation area.

Sir John Garrick, former permanent secretary at the environment department, was appointed to look into the running of the corporation after a clash between Mr Sykes and Keith Beaumont, the corporation's chief executive. Set up two years ago, the corporation took over the city council's planning powers to regenerate the 2,250 acre Lower Don valley to the east of the city.

In a statement issued yesterday Michael Portillo, the local government minister, said Mr Sykes' chairmanship of Hallamshire Investments plc, a company established to invest in the regeneration of Sheffield was inconsistent with the need to avoid suspicion of clashes of public and private interests.

The minister said that Mr Sykes could remain chairman of Hallamshire but the general rule was that chairmen of development corporations should resign such posts.

M & S is top choice for graduate jobs

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE wish of most graduates is to work for Marks & Spencer. Failing that, they would like to work for British Telecom.

Five hundred final year students in universities, business schools and polytechnics were asked to rank companies according to several yardsticks in a survey by *Business* magazine and Young & Rubicam Capital Image, the marketing consultancy group.

Although students ranked retailing as fourth in terms of dynamism, behind chemicals and pharmaceuticals, computer systems and telecommunications, Marks & Spencer's aggregate score made it a clear winner overall. The result comes as no surprise since the company already receives more than 5,500 graduate applicants a year for around 300 places among its 62,000 workforce.

The company was thought

by students to be the best of all at its business, and was named as the company with which they would most like to be associated. It was also rated the second most socially responsible company, outscored only by IBM, whose managing director, Tony Cleaver, is chairman of the environment group of the charity Business in the Community.

The runners-up in the students' overall scores were ICI, which ranked third as the company with which students would most like to be associated, and IBM, which will be hiring 250 graduates this year. Then came BP, Unilever, J Sainsbury, Rolls-Royce, Shell, Volvo, Volkswagen and Tesco. British Telecom failed to win a place in the final ten in spite of its high rating as a company with which to be associated.

Abandoned islands recalled, 60 years on

SIXTY years ago today the islanders of St Kilda left their homes for the last time and moved to the mainland, leaving the four-island archipelago west of the Outer Hebrides to be taken over by bird colonies and other wildlife.

On August 29, 1930, two ships, the *Harebell* and *Dunara Castle*, appeared in Village Bay to remove the islanders, laid low by poverty, hunger and disease. The next day they were sailing for mainland Britain. Last night, Flora Craig, now in her seventies, remembered the hard-

ships of growing up on St Kilda when its owners, the National Trust for Scotland, held an anniversary reception.

Mrs Craig watched archive footage of the island when it was still inhabited, and the first screening of the new print of Michael Powell's *Edge of the World*, a documentary on St Kilda. The islands are a World Heritage site, in recognition of their geology and varied birdlife including gannets, kittiwakes and puffins.

Thousands of the birds used to be killed each year for food by the islanders.



Filling the gap: Heidi Treichler, from New Hampshire, who will teach at a primary school in Tower Hamlets, east London. She is one of a group of American teachers filling vacancies in the capital. For many, it is their first visit to England, and most have no experience beyond what they have learnt in training

London schools get US reinforcements

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

American reinforcements opened up a new front yesterday — in London schools, where a multinational teaching force is preparing for a long campaign.

Teacher shortages in the capital's schools have led to calls across the Atlantic and elsewhere for help. Two groups of American teachers, the largest overseas contingent, have arrived to teach at primary schools in Tower Hamlets, east London, and Islington, north London.

Tower Hamlets, which was unable to offer places to 370 children at the start of the last school year, has been offering incentive payments and help with housing to attract British teachers. The arrival of 24 Americans to join smaller groups of teachers from Bangladesh and The Netherlands should mean the borough's schools are fully staffed when term starts next week.

After a town hall reception, the recruits were taken to the borough's training centre in Essex to learn about the intricacies of the English education system, subtle differences in language and the needs of a multicultural classroom.

Most of the group comes from New York and Boston.

Only about one third have teaching experience. For Danielle Carter, straight out of college and from a rural background in Long Island, New York, it is her first trip

abroad and the first time on the staff of a school. She believes that the experience of working in London will give her an edge in the more competitive employment market for teachers at home.

At Islington, 31 Americans form part of a contingent of 80 recruited under the Mountbatten Project, in New York. Islington, too, has managed to fill almost all its teaching posts after a campaign costing £2 million in advertising fees and incentive payments.

Two teachers in Surrey, meanwhile, are about to be the first to be made compulsorily redundant. Les Moores and Ben Cook have lost their jobs at Horsell High school, in Woking, and will be unemployed next week at the start of the new term if they are not redeployed.

Mr Moores, a history teacher, and Mr Cook, who teaches technical drawing, are taking their cases to an industrial tribunal. Surrey education authority said that attempts had been made to redeploy both men after school governors decided to shed teaching posts to meet their budget, but that no vacancies were available in their subjects.

Teacher unions fear that other cases might come to light by the start of the new term, but no other compulsory redundancies have been reported so far.



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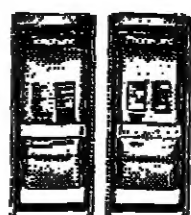
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Few protests as council secures orders on 400 charge defaulters

By LIN JENKINS

A COUSIN of the Queen and a Conservative MP were among more than 500 summonsed for non payment of the poll tax by Westminster city council yesterday.

The case against Gary Waller, MP for Keighley, was withdrawn, however, following intervention by Jean Barraclough, the council's chief revenues officer. Mr Waller, who did not appear in court but was at his desk in the Commons, said that the summons, posted on August 3, had been a mistake. "When I realised my name was on the court list for today I rang to check that

the case was to be withdrawn. It was paid some weeks ago, not by me, because it is not where I live but a place I own," Mr Waller, who has paid his poll tax in his constituency, said.

John Bowes-Lyon, whose father Major General Sir James Bowes-Lyon was a nephew of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's father, was also summonsed to appear before Horseferry Road magistrates but did not turn up. Magistrate Terence Maher said that Mr Bowes-Lyon was among those who had failed to pay the tax of £195. He granted liability orders against him, and more than 400 other Westminster residents, and ordered they each pay £32.50 costs. Mr

Bowes-Lyon, aged 48, appears on the council's records as living in an apartment at a London club. A former director of Sotheby's, he spends much of his time in New York.

Anti poll tax protesters had hoped that proceedings would be delayed by questions from those summonsed, but just a handful turned up at the court and either volunteered or were persuaded by finance officers to pay up before the hearings began.

During the hearings, protesters were ejected from the court by Mr Maher after they failed to heed his warnings to be quiet. Julie Donovan, of the All London Anti Poll Tax Federation, said the fact

that Westminster could seek orders against only 500 people in the first batch illustrated that the tax was uncollectable. "With three million non payers in London alone it is going to take years to take legal action against all of them," she said.

The granting of liability orders means the council can begin proceedings to dock the tax from people's wages or send in the bailiffs. Mrs Barraclough said she was surprised and pleased at how smoothly the cases went. "I think it says we have observed the right procedures. The first step now is to make arrangements for payments." Notices of the orders will be sent out within ten days

and some non payers could face that bailiffs by the end of September.

There was better news on the poll tax front for seaside landlords from Michael Portillo, the junior local government minister, who said yesterday that they would be exempted from paying business rates from next year providing they limited the number of their "paying guests".

The proposal will end the situation where owners of smaller bed and breakfast establishments are liable for both poll tax and business rates on their properties. Mr Portillo said that, from next April, householders offering bed and breakfast accommodation for up to

six people at a time would no longer have to pay business rates, provided they lived on the premises.

At present bed and breakfast establishments can avoid paying business rates only if they open for fewer than 100 days a year. Yesterday's announcement marks the latest move by ministers to ease the twin impact of the poll tax and the new uniform business rate on small businesses whose owners who have found themselves being taxed twice.

Similar concessions for small shopkeepers living "over the shop" were announced as part of the government's review of the poll tax published last month.

Poll tax adding to debts of poorest families, study says

By KERRY GILL

PAYMENT of the community charge is driving poorer families into mounting debt, according to an independent study carried out for Europe's largest local authority.

The survey, for Strathclyde region, suggests that the government's rebate system is failing to deal adequately with payment problems faced by the poor. Yesterday the authority gave a warning that up to 9,000 jobs could be lost as a direct or indirect result of non-payment.

Difficulties in meeting payments are likely to increase in the future as the gap between benefit levels and poll tax bills widens, according to the study. More than 500,000 people in Strathclyde have either paid nothing or are seriously in arrears. John

Mullin, the chairman of the council's finance committee, said that the study had serious implications for the government. "They have consistently pushed the line that the poll tax created greater accountability and that the rebate system catered for people suffering from the greatest hardship."

"The words of the government are nothing more than a sham, and the poll tax is an unworkable piece of political legislation. The sooner it is consigned to the political dustbin, the better," he said.

The £20,000 survey was carried out by the Scottish Foundation for Economic Research, an independent academic body. It concludes that the rebate system, which allows those on benefits and

lower incomes to pay only 20 per cent of the charge, is failing to help many low income families.

Dr Alan Sproull, who presented the research paper, said: "We have found that even people with incomes below £60 a week are facing the full tax liability. Six out of ten of the low income households studied for the survey were in debt and liability for the tax was adding to their burden, he said. Almost half of the families were nevertheless up to date with their payments, often with considerable impact on other household spending."

The report said: "The survey results paint a picture of the majority of low income households sinking further into poverty." It said that social security changes were also a factor that had to be taken into consideration. "The study also found that the region's more affluent districts were benefiting from the poll tax. Residents in Bearsden and Milngavie, one of the wealthiest suburbs in Scotland, gained by an average of £178 a person a year."

Nearly all the 19 districts, however, had lost as a result of the switch from rates. Remote rural areas had suffered particularly badly, since their low level of council service was previously compensated for by low rates.

Strathclyde has already said that the poll tax could rise by more than £100 next year, taking average bills to about £420, because of a projected shortfall of £62 million. More than 525,000 people are now in arrears over the tax with 380,000 cases referred to sheriff officers. The first warrant sales to recover bad debts are expected in the next few weeks.

Strathclyde will probably introduce widespread cuts in its services because of the cash shortfall. Recruitment may be slowed or frozen, and equipment and supplies to schools reduced. Health and social services are also under threat. Charles Gray, the leader of the Labour administration, has said that the authority is facing the worst financial dilemma he has known during his 32 years in public life.



Rare showing: a painting by Claude Monet, owned by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and said to be one of her most important later works, displayed by Norman Rosenthal, exhibitions secretary for the Royal Academy, where it is to go on show to the public for the first time in 34 years (Simon Tait writes).

Study of *Rocky Coast* was acquired by the Queen Mother for her private collection in 1949, and was last displayed at an exhibition of the artist's work in Edinburgh in 1956. The work is one of ten in the *Crevasse Valley* series painted by Monet in 1889, all of which will be on show at the exhibition, Monet in the 90s.

The *Series Paintings*, from next Friday until December 9. It is the first time the complete set will have been seen together since Monet's death in 1926. Mr Rosenthal said: "It is a very exciting painting, arguably the most radical in the series and certainly one of the most radical in the exhibition. The Queen

Mother bought it when such Monets were not considered important and were rather difficult to sell, so she would not have paid a lot of money for it. One is astounded by her general perception."

More than 100 works painted in a single decade are to be shown in the exhibition.

MP's goods valued by sheriff officers

SHERIFF officers yesterday forced entry to the home of Richard Douglas, Independent Labour MP for Dundee, West, and one of the leading figures in the poll tax non-payment campaign in Scotland (Kerry Gill writes).

The officers, accompanied by the police, broke a glass panel in a door to get into Mr Douglas's home in Auchtermuchty, Fife. The forced entry went ahead to allow the sheriff officers to carry out a poinding, the assessment of a debtor's goods before a warrant sale. Mr Douglas has consistently refused to pay the community charge.

He left the Labour party earlier this year because of its refusal to back a non-payment campaign, and is expected to join the Scottish National Party, which favours such a move, before the end of the year. Mr Douglas was in the house with Jean, his wife, when the sheriff officers arrived with two policemen. He refused to admit them through the front door.

"They then went to the back of the house," Mr Douglas said. "One of the policemen picked up a piece of paving

stone from the back garden and used it to smash a pane of glass. They then entered the house after turning the lock, and started to value my goods. The whole process took about half an hour." The sheriff officers valued a number of items, including a personal computer and compact disc player, to reach £380, the amount owed by Mr Douglas to Fife Regional Council.

He said he was taking legal advice over the possibility of a future warrant sale. "I wanted the men out of the house and kept protesting, but if I had touched them I would have been arrested. I think the Labour authorities ought to be ashamed of themselves. They are conducting a nauseating and barbaric exercise to collect this tax," he said.

Kenny MacAskill, SNP spokesman on poll tax, said that the "bully boy behaviour" was an absolute disgrace. "The Labour party in Fife had better start to realise that this is Scotland in the 1990s. We are no longer living in the Victorian era where such acts of violence and intimidation might have been acceptable."

Firms criticised for missing export fair

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH companies and the government were condemned yesterday for failing to show any interest in selling pollution control equipment to eastern Europe.

John Haigh, British agent for the exhibition, said that not one of more than 700 British companies approached would be present at the first eastern block trade fair of its kind which is to be held next month at Brno, Czechoslovakia. The 200 companies present will include representatives from West Germany, France, Denmark and Australia.

Mr Haigh, who spent 20 years as an exhibitions expert with the trade and industry department, said that during his time there he had seen a gradual decline of government support for British manufacturers to encourage export. "The level of assistance offered today, particularly to small companies, to display their wares and fight for export orders is totally inadequate."

Earlier this year, the department told Mr Haigh that it could not help companies to display at the exhibition as funds for such events had been used up for the financial year.

Ken Gill, general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, which has accused the government of destroying Britain's industrial base, said that without an industrial strategy, manufacturing industry would fall into an even more serious decline. Mr Gill said the lack of interest was staggering, particularly in view of this week's CBI report which said that exports are falling.

KCL, one of the companies which declined to exhibit at Brno, said it was very active in the foreign exhibition field although it tended to go where the markets are, in continental Europe, north America and the Pacific basin. It also said that it was involved in production in eastern Europe.

Vets 'should have bigger health role'

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A BIGGER role for veterinary surgeons in ensuring food safety and protecting the public from diseases transmitted by animals was called for at the start of the annual congress of the British Veterinary Association in London yesterday.

In his opening address, Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior, head of the clinical veterinary medicine department at Cambridge university, said that veterinary supervision at every stage of the food chain from "conception to consumption" should be the aim.

Such supervision should embrace not only meat hygiene and inspection, but zoonoses (diseases that affect both humans and animals) and the food production and distribution industries. Vets had to make clear they wanted that wider role, he said.

"The modern food industry should involve the veterinarian from the initial decisions

on breeding and production, through transport and slaughter and inspection, and beyond that through subsequent marketing and delivery to the customer," he said.

In an interview, John Bower, the association's president, said that the profession was concerned that veterinarians had been omitted from the Tyrell committee that is advising the government on the public health implications of the "mad cow" disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

"Vets should be routinely represented on such official bodies. The Tyrell committee is very heavily weighted towards the medical profession. We feel strongly that the vet is the only person competent to say whether an animal up to the point of slaughter is healthy and fit to eat."

Mr Bower welcomed the government's recent announcement that ante-mortem inspection of animals was to be made compulsory at all slaughterhouses from next January, but said he was "very concerned that the quality of inspection is apparently being downgraded by being left to meat inspectors, environmental health officers and other non-veterinarians."

"If they see an abnormal animal, they will have to call in a veterinary surgeon, but that will put a big responsibility on people who are not really trained to spot it." The introduction of ante-mortem inspection will bring British abattoirs into line by 1993 with the more stringent standards required in the rest of the European Community. Only ten per cent of British slaughterhouses now meet these standards and many may have to close.



Lord Soulsby: vets must seek wider involvement

Police murder charge

An unemployed man, aged 20, appeared before magistrates yesterday charged with murdering PC Laurence Brown, aged 27, who was shot dead at point-blank range in Hackney, east London, on Tuesday.

Mark Gaynor, of no fixed address, was further charged with burglary at a house in Albany Park Avenue, Enfield, north London, on or before August 16, when four shotguns and an air rifle were among items stolen.

Gaynor was handcuffed to a detective during the two-minute hearing before Old Street magistrates. Magistrate Miss Dorothy Quick remanded Gaynor in custody until September 26.

Not before time

A new 4cwt hammer was fitted to the clock mechanism of Big Ben yesterday allowing the 13½ ton bell to ring again on the hour. The old hammer was removed after signs of fatigue were found during a regular inspection in March, and for the past six months the chimes were heard on the quarter- and half-hours only.

Sacking upheld

Three poll bearers, dismissed for mixing up two bodies in a mortuary, lost their appeal for unfair dismissal yesterday at an industrial tribunal in Ashford, Kent. William Cook, of Igham, William Parsons, of West Wickham, and Andrew McNeill, of Farnborough, all Kent, had claimed that a rival firm switched the identity tags.

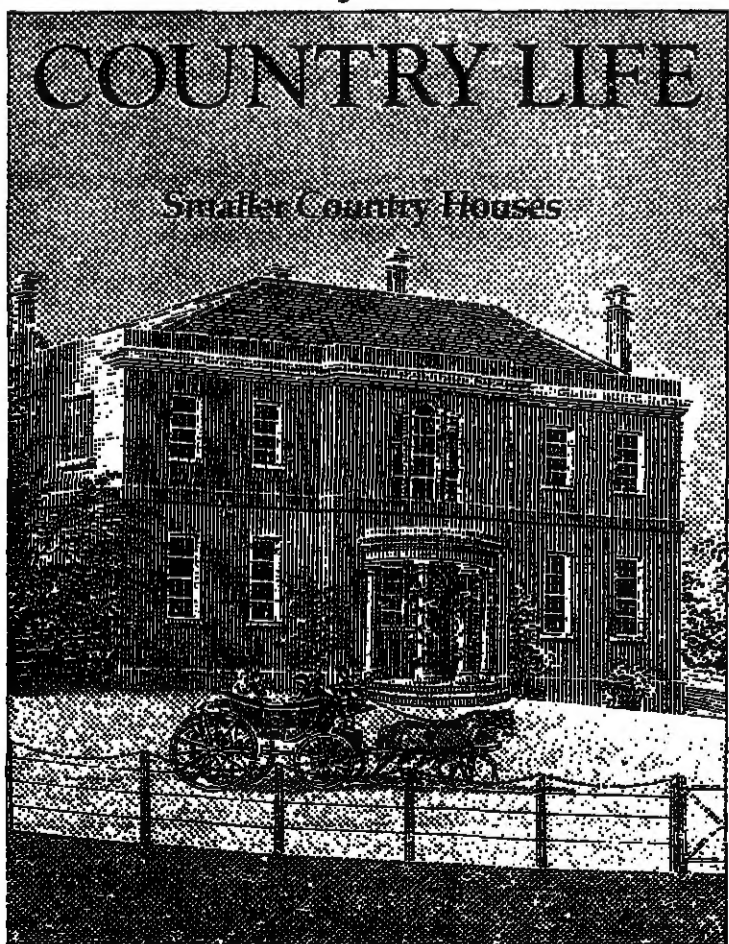
Tree to be felled

A 150-year-old horse chestnut must be felled within 14 days, a High Court judge ruled yesterday after being told that Peter Elliott, who wants the tree removed because it is damaging his property, had been harassed since he sought to have it cut down. Islington council, north London, said it would do its best to comply.

Dangerous owl

A Great European eagle owl is being hunted after it escaped yesterday from a house in Sutton, south London. Police said: "It stands 3ft tall and has a 6ft wing span. We know it kills cats and dogs, by ripping them apart with its claws. We are worried for the safety of pets and indeed small children."

Smaller Country Houses Number



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Anglicans boycott March for Jesus in dispute on ideology

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

SOME Anglicans have refused to take part in a nationwide "March for Jesus" because of the extreme views of some of the marchers on demonology, exorcism and evil spirits. Senior churchmen are concerned that parts of some cities and certain companies have become "demonised" and fear the marchers will attempt to exorcise those "demons".

Graham Kendrick, the popular gospel songwriter and singer, will tonight lead a team of Christian walkers from Holyhead in Anglesey, Gwynedd, on the first leg of a march towards the East coast. More than 250,000 Christians across the United Kingdom are expected to take part in 800 other marches on Saturday week.

Gerald Coates, one of the organisers, said last night that it was his belief that some British companies and institutions had become "demonised". "If you do not give adequate spiritual leadership, areas and institutions can become overtaken by other forces," he said. However, talk of corporate exorcism was "sheer non-

sense" and that the march was not intended to "deliver" the institutions.

Prebendary Michael Seward, vicar of St Mary's, Ealing, and a member of the Church of England Evangelical Council, said his church had been invited to take part in the march but had refused. They were concerned to know "whether or not there is some element of alleged corporate demonisation of the institutions in our society and whether or not the march in some sense of other is meant to be an attempt to exorcise that demonisation".

In a recent letter to the *Church of England Newspaper* Mr Seward, a prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral, and the other ten members of his team expressed concern that an extremist view of demonology lay at the heart of the official march theology. They said they feared the marchers were not simply marches of witness but aimed at "reclaiming" demonised institutions. Their letter urged Anglicans to weigh up carefully whether they should identify themselves with such goals.

The Rev Graham Gray,

vicar of St Michael-le-Belfry in York, said a march through the centre of York had been ruled out "on practical grounds". He added: "I have no reason to doubt the motivation or integrity of the people involved, many of whom I know personally. I am very happy that a few months before the launch of the decade of evangelism there will be large-scale public acts of witness by Christians in many cities and towns."

"What I question is whether some of the social transformation and spiritual warfare reaching that some people have associated with this sort of thing is valid in terms of what the Bible says."

Mr Coates said: "There are good spirits which come from God, Heaven, the Holy Spirit. There are bad spirits, demonic spirits, and evil spirits."

He blamed liberalism for a decline in church attendance, which had left inner cities open to the influence of evil spirits. "There are areas which have been affected by good spirits and areas which have been affected by very bad spirits and therefore bad human influences."

Russian party's threat to Soviet leadership fades

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

ANY concern the Soviet leadership might have felt about the potentially malign political influence of the new Russian Federation Communist party would have been dispelled yesterday by the party's first secretary, Ivan Polozkov, giving his first Moscow press conference for six weeks. This was not because Mr Polozkov, a reputed conservative, showed any special zeal for reform, but because the Russian Communist party, which was established in June to satisfy demands of Russians for their own party organisation, is running into difficulty before it has even got off the ground.

With the second half of its founding congress due to start next Tuesday, the party still has only one permanent official, its elected first secretary, Mr Polozkov; it has no budget of its own; its central committee is incomplete and at

least 16 congress delegates have said they will not be attending next week's congress.

On a visit to Leningrad 10 days ago, Mr Polozkov was reliably reported to have converted far from all the doubts in his party. In Moscow yesterday, a still optimistic but careworn Mr Polozkov conceded that he presided over a divided party.

Mr Polozkov had the good fortune to inherit a ready-made party of more than 10 million members — all those communists who live in the Russian Federation. But that does not mean he will keep them. In Moscow, Leningrad and several other cities, sophisticated urban reformers have chosen to leave the party completely. In some places they are still debating the possibility of belonging to the central Soviet party rather than to the Russian party — a

practical impossibility now all party members are automatically members of a republic party.

While the choice of Mr Polozkov as leader can be blamed for restricting the appeal of the new party, however, this is only one of the reasons for its difficulties. Its main handicap is that it was founded when the influence of the Communist party on the uppermost Soviet life was already in decline, and just before it was eclipsed almost entirely.

Over the summer, careerists have recognised that the party is no longer the route to power or security; idealists, contemplating the devastation around them, have by and large found themselves other ideals. Those full-time party officials with a choice have moved over to work in the soviets or local governments.

The seven weeks since the superficially triumphant close of the 28th congress of the Soviet Communist party have seen a crucial, yet unpublicised, shift in the centre of Soviet power, from the party to the state presidency and the governments and parliaments of the republics.

The shift was inherent in the restructuring of the party politburo and secretariat and the transfer of all important ministers from the politburo into the presidential council. Only now, however, is it apparent how thoroughly the party, at national level, if not in the regions, has been pushed into the background.

In recent weeks the Soviet leadership has been confronted with two immediate dilemmas: its policy in the Gulf and its economic future. In neither of these had the party played any role.

● **Armenian emergency:** The parliament in the southern Soviet republic of Armenia declared a state of emergency yesterday after Viktor Aivazyan, a parliamentary deputy, was shot dead before dawn.

Alexander Arzumanyan, a spokesman for the Armenian National Movement, said 170 deputies voted in favour of imposing a curfew from 10pm to 6am and of banning demonstrations. There were no votes against and only two abstentions.

Mr Arzumanyan said Mr Aivazyan had gone with a group of activists to the headquarters of the Armenian National Army, the largest of several armed militias in Armenia, to discuss a dispute at a petrol station.

"Without any explanation the group was fired on," Mr Arzumanyan said by telephone from Yerevan, the Armenian capital. Mr Aivazyan and an activist were killed and another man was seriously wounded.

Under the emergency legislation, the Armenian National Army is declared an illegal organisation and was ordered to give up its arms by 10pm yesterday. (Reuters)



People's war: a peasant child in Ayacucho examining the home-made shotgun held by her father, a member of a Peruvian civil defence group fighting the Shining Path rebels during a state of emergency which has been extended since the deaths of 30 people in political violence

Rescue raid for Pretoria 'agent'

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

BIZARRE events involving a violent altercation at a press conference, the exposure of an alleged spy and his rescue by armed police led to the arrest of South African trade union leaders on charges of kidnap and theft.

The incident on Tuesday began when officials of the black Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) spotted a man acting suspiciously outside its Johannesburg headquarters. When they approached him they found he had a walkie-talkie and photographs of Geraldine Jocelyn, a senior member of the South African Communist party, which has offices in the same building.

The man, who gave his name as Joseph Maleka, said he had been hired by a policeman three days earlier to monitor Miss Jocelyn's movements. At a hastily convened press conference in Cosatu's offices, he said he had been offered 500 rand (£100). "He (the policeman) told me that they wanted to arrest her ... I needed the money," he said.

The man was persuaded by journalists to call his superiors on the walkie-talkie. The radio crackled, and a voice said: "Where are you?" — "Inside National Acceptance House (Cosatu's offices)." — "What are you doing there?" — "Talking to Cosatu." — "Who are they ... what's going on?"

An altercation then developed with African National Congress members who accused Mr Maleka of being an assassin, and journalists saw him being hit with a wooden staff and punched on the chin. About six hours after Mr Maleka was detained, an elite police unit led by a general

and two brigadiers entered the building, led him away, and arrested Cosatu's top officials. A police spokesman said they had acted to rescue a police constable who had been abducted and held against his will.

Joy Naidoo, the Cosatu secretary-general, Sydney Magamadi, his assistant, and Baba Schalk of the organisation's media section later appeared in the Johannesburg magistrates' court. No formal charges were preferred and the case was adjourned until October 3. Bail was set at 1,500 rand each.

Richard Spoor, appearing for the three, said: "It's not quite clear what the charges are. At first I was informed they were kidnap and theft of the walkie-talkie; now I understand they have been reduced to abduction, which is less serious."

Mr Naidoo told reporters he and the other two had wished merely to expose clandestine activity which they feared might have presaged an assassination attempt against Miss Jocelyn.

Miss Jocelyn, an activist of the ANC and the Communist party, who returned to South Africa last month, said she was aware of having been under police surveillance, and feared for her life.

● **Open city:** The Johannesburg city council has voted to allow people of all races to live wherever they wish in what is South Africa's largest city. The decision has no legislative authority and would have to be ratified by the government. President de Klerk has undertaken to scrap the Group Areas Act, which governs where people of different races may live.

Peace hopes rise in Mohawk land row

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

A GLIMMER of hope arose yesterday that an armed confrontation between Mohawk Indian warriors and Canadian troops at two locations in Quebec province can be resolved peacefully.

Informal negotiations were held on Tuesday at Dorval, near Montreal. On Tuesday night Billy Two Rivers, an Indian chief, emerged saying that a tentative agreement had been reached whereby the Mohawks would dismantle the barricades they had put up. A federal government spokesman said a peaceful resolution could be achieved "within a day or two".

Nevertheless, an army force of 2,000 troops continued preparations for an assault on heavily fortified Mohawk positions at Oka, Quebec, and on the south shore of the St Lawrence river at Montreal.

The army was ordered on Monday to dismantle the positions, after the federal and Quebec governments said that negotiations aimed at settling a dispute with the Mohawks had broken down. The dispute started as a quarrel over an Indian land claim at Oka but turned into an armed stand-off between Mohawk warriors and, first, Quebec provincial police, and later the army.

Lieutenant-General Kent Foster, commander of Canada's 3rd Infantry brigade, said in St Hubert, near Montreal, on Tuesday that he was determined to fulfil the mandate given him by the government to dismantle Indian barricades. He would do so in a non-violent way if he could, but was prepared for battle if peaceful means failed.

about 500 residents threw stones and pieces of concrete at a convoy of cars carrying Mohawk families out of an Indian reserve on the St Lawrence south shore. The residents were venting their fury at a seven-week Mohawk blockade of a busy bridge.

● **Trip postponed:** Michel Rocard, the French prime minister, is postponing a trip to Canada next week, Canada's external affairs department said. The *Globe and Mail* of Toronto said Robert Bourassa, the Quebec premier, had asked for the postponement because of the confrontation involving the Mohawk Indians. (Reuters)



Family vigil: relatives watching rescuers bring out the bodies of about 150 miners known to have died in an explosion at Kreka coalmine in Yugoslavia last Sunday

Bonn agrees to grant immunity for spies from East Germany

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

THOUSANDS of agents who spied for East Germany in the West are to be guaranteed freedom from prosecution after unification with West Germany, Markus Wolf, the former head of the country's intelligence service, said yesterday.

"As far as I am aware an agreement has now been reached with the authorities in the federal republic that no measures will be taken against us," he said. "This is the solution which I consider to be just and essential if we are to preserve inner peace in the unified Germany."

Diplomatic sources confirmed that plans to track down former East German agents had been shelved. "It would set loose a witch hunt of endless enquiries and suspicion which would be very damaging to political stability," one official said.

The matter of how to deal with the 4,000 agents thought to have been active in the West is the most difficult vestige of 40 years of enmity

between the two German states.

The West German public prosecutor's office has accepted that East Germans who spied in good faith for their country cannot be tried for treason under West German law, reversing the legal assumption of the past four decades. This also means that the unification celebrations at midnight on October 3 will not be marred by West German police driving over the no longer extant border to make dawn arrests of former spies as had been envisaged.

This decision has enraged the West German security service for whom Herr Wolf was an elusive prize throughout his 30 years at the head of the department, euphemistically known as the *Aufklärung* (the enlightenment).

A warrant for the arrest of Herr Wolf for high treason, punishable by five to ten years in prison, still stands in West Germany but will probably be repealed before unification.

He said he was unwilling to risk accepting the offer of Peter Diestel, the East German interior minister, to take him to Bonn under guard to talk about his future.

The authorities are, however, less keen to extend exemption from prosecution to West German citizens such as Hans-Joachim Tiedge, the highly placed civil servant who spied for East Germany. They are subject to federal law and a bitter debate is in progress on whether they should also escape trial.

Herr Wolf, who has sworn never to betray the agents who worked for him, said that their prosecution would be "out of step with the spirit of reconciliation and the end of the Cold War". He confirmed that Wolfgang Vogel, the lawyer who administered his spy swaps, is working on the release of East German spies in prison abroad.

The spies include Sonja and Reinhard Schulze, imprisoned in Britain in 1986 for spying in

London. "Unfortunately we have no spies left to swap them for," he joked. Western spies in the East were released in a general amnesty earlier this year.

These days Herr Wolf is an admired public figure in East Berlin and has shaken off the more dubious aspects of his 30 years as head of the intelligence service to acquire a new image as the spy with a heart. "James Bond could not have charmed his way out of trouble better," one West German security expert said.

Despite his reincarnation as an author and reformer, Herr Wolf still possesses a disruptive potential which Bonn is anxious not to put to the test. When the subject of prosecutions was raised earlier in the year, he embarked on a campaign emphasising the negative effects of a spy hunt so successfully that significant numbers of political leaders, including Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, have recently swung his way.

Union blamed for Sofia fire

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN SOFIA

TENSION continued to increase in the Bulgarian capital as the ruling Socialist (former Communist) party yesterday stepped up its allegations against opposition leaders, accusing them of provoking the arson attack on the party's headquarters on Sunday.

In particular the party blamed Dr Konstantin Tren-

chev for allegedly organising the fire. Dr Trenchev is the president of Podkrepa, an independent trade union modelled on Poland's Solidarity movement.

Signs of unrest are continuing throughout Bulgaria. From next week sugar, oil, paper and detergent will be rationed in the capital, an

unprecedented measure in Bulgaria. Shops which last year were always plentifully stocked now are empty. Food stores containing meagre supplies of tinned fruit are daily besieged by long queues.

Unemployment is rising rapidly. According to Podkrepa, more than 15 per cent of the workforce will be jobless by the end of the year. Many inefficient state enterprises are finding it difficult to pay their employees' wages.

As prices of essential goods more than double, the average Bulgarian wage of £250 a month looks increasingly little on which to survive on.

● **Police demonstrate:** More than 3,000 Bulgarian police, some in riot gear, others on horseback and motorcycles or leading police dogs, demonstrated in central Sofia yesterday, to demand the resignation of their commanders.

A spokesman said they were protesting against criticism of their failure to prevent the burning of the former Communist party headquarters. One of the policemen read a proclamation calling for the resignation of incompetent commanders and a politically independent police force.

"Police action on Sunday was ineffective because of unprofessional leadership," the proclamation said. (Reuters)

High castes strike over jobs pledge

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

MUCH of northern India was in turmoil yesterday as high-caste Indians stepped up their protests against government plans to reserve millions of jobs for low castes. There are increasing signs of cabinet divisions over the scheme.

Delhi's government schools have been ordered to close for the rest of the week. The city's buses were withdrawn yesterday because so many have had their windows smashed. Courts were paralysed when lawyers went on strike, and large numbers of factories closed. Trading was suspended on the Delhi Stock Exchange when brokers stopped work.

There is increasing speculation about a winter general election as V. P. Singh, the prime minister, presses ahead with populist measures. He pledged that, despite the protests, he would go ahead with the plan to reserve 27 per cent of government jobs for low castes. Mr Singh is being widely criticised for basing his plan on caste rather than economic need, since members of high castes can also be poor. But, in general, caste defines economic status.

Police use tear gas on Albanians

Pristina — Yugoslav riot police wielded batons and fired tear gas to disperse thousands of ethnic Albanians awaiting a US congressional delegation to complain about human rights abuses. About 10,000 protesters gathered in front of a city hotel where the delegation of seven Republican senators was expected to hold talks with dissident leaders of Kosovo province's ethnic Albanian majority. (AP)

Plan welcomed

Bangkok — Cambodian guerrillas have welcomed an ambitious United Nations' peace plan but said they must resolve quarrels with the Vietnamese-installed government which will govern before elections. (AP)

Farm protest

Paris — Farmers throughout France's agricultural regions blocked roads, dumped manure outside administrative buildings and set free dozens of sheep in a national day of protest against declining lamb and beef prices. (AFP)

Tornado toll

Crest Hill, Illinois — Tornadoes tore through several towns in the north of the American state, killing as many as 26 people and destroying homes, a high school and a block of flats, authorities said. (AFP)

Semtex scent

Prague — Czechoslovak police have trained dogs to sniff out Semtex explosive, once a virtually undetectable weapon of terrorists. *Mlada fronta*, a daily paper, said albatrosses could find the explosive in a building, a car, or on a person. (Reuters)

Murder hunt

Gainesville, Florida — Police have stepped up the hunt in this terrified American university town for the "maniac on the loose" who killed and mutilated five students in the past four days. (AP)

Sixty injured

Chittagong — At least 60 women were injured in Bangladesh when police with batons charged factory workers demonstrating for higher wages. (Reuters)

Officials quit

Kuala Lumpur — Five prominent Malaysians have quit a multiracial economic council directed by Mahathir Mohamed, the prime minister, to frame an economic blueprint. (AFP)

Purple House puts a capitalist tinge to socialist romance

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

THE master of ceremonies shouts cheerfully into the microphone at the nervous couple in front of him, the bride in frilly white and the groom in black suit and white gloves. "Li Lei and Hu Lin, will you abide by birth control policies and give birth to just one baby?"

The bride (tittering) and groom make a deep bow towards each other in acquiescence, and wedding guests who have been sipping orange squash through straws and nibbling peanuts burst into applause and delighted laughter. This is a wedding ceremony as theatre; socialist romance Purple House style.

Li Lei and Hu Lin's wedding day had dawned rainy and grey, but they knew that for two thousand yuan (£238) the Purple House would take care of everything. The Purple House is the first compre-

hensive marriage services centre in China, and was established recently as an entrepreneurial sideline by the Peking Textile Bureau on the principle that weddings and wedding presents involve a lot of textiles.

"One man came to watch a ceremony here and he wept," says Cao Sulin, the deputy manager, elegant in beige silk and pearls. "He said that he had got married during the Cultural Revolution, and all he'd received as wedding presents were ten copies of the works of Chairman Mao."

Those days are past, but however extravagant the wedding ceremony, it is tailored to fit in with present policies. "We've had to cut out a lot of feudalistic practices, of course," says Mrs Cao. "The groom used to hold an arrow against the chest of his bride to kill

any bad luck in her, and guests used to put peanuts in the bridal quilt to wish a couple many sons and many daughters. Of course these are no longer appropriate, especially now we have the one-child policy."

The government has been urging people to spend less on weddings, saying they are a waste of money. The Purple House will do weddings as simple or as elaborate as you ask, but claims that it is far cheaper than a reception in a big hotel. Li Lei and Hu Lin's 2,000 yuan package does include lunch for 50 people.

"We don't make much of a profit," says Mrs Cao. "This is really a social service. Now that our country is reforming and opening up, and people's standard of living is on the rise, we think it is right that they should have a wedding to

remember. That way they'll take their marriage seriously."

The centre opened at the end of June, and there was just one wedding last month because, says Mrs Cao, it was too hot to get married. This month there have been ten weddings, ranging in price from 900 to 4,000 yuan. The average monthly wage is about 200 yuan, and both families share the cost of most weddings.

The Purple House leaves no stone unturned. As Li Lei and Hu Lin walk arm in arm into the hall in what was once a Textile Bureau office, they are preceded by a flower girl in pink, scattering petals from a basket. The wedding march swells from a cassette player. A cameraman video-tapes the ceremony. In fact, the couple may have signed the marriage certificate up to a year earlier, but they only live

together once they have held this ceremony.

A photographer captures the wedding group in poses, but the photographs are deceptive. The bride and groom had never set eyes on the best man, let alone the bridesmaid and pageboy, before they came to the Purple House. The best man works at the Purple House during his university holiday. The bridesmaid and pageboy are hired from a local kindergarten. The children take it in turn there to make a little extra pocket money by dressing up in a miniature wedding dress and Western suit, learning to hold the bride's train, and look angelic for a few hours.

One can book a honeymoon through the Purple House, or stay in a bridal suite there. A couple can have a dance party, order a

banquet, or hold a poetry reading to celebrate their wedding. On the ground floor the Purple House store stocks wedding presents. Upstairs, are wedding gowns for hire; a make-up artist tends to the faces of bride and groom alike. In October, the Mining Bureau has booked a collective wedding and honeymoon for ten couples.

Weddings are big business in China and, while the government urges restraint, the Peking Textile Bureau is unlikely to be the last government department to get in on the act. "The Civil Affairs Bureau would like to go into business with us," says Mrs Cao. "After all, couples have to go to them to sign the marriage certificates, so when they go there, the Civil Affairs Bureau could suggest they came here to hold the ceremony."

The anatomy of hatred

Conor Cruise O'Brien

I have been attending a conference in Oslo called "The Anatomy of Hate: Resolving Conflict through Dialogue and Democracy". The conference is under the joint auspices of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity and the Norwegian Nobel Committee. Really, it's all Elie Wiesel. He is one who can call spirits from the vasty deep, and they do come when he calls. Jimmy Carter, Nelson Mandela, Francois Mitterrand, Vaclav Havel, Adam Michnik and many other notables.

The subject matter remained elusive. If hate was present, it did not make itself known. This is the kind of conference where people have to be nice, as one speaker said, gloomily. The conference discussed the Middle East, South Africa, Eastern and Central Europe, South Africa and the Middle East had a tendency to overlap. Nelson Mandela was challenged over ANC support for the proposition "Zionism equals racism". He did not defend the proposition or deny that the ANC supports it. He said that he accepts Zionism "if that just means that Israel has a right to exist". If it means that Israel has a right to rule over the populations of the West Bank and Gaza, he could not accept it any more than apartheid. His critics subsided.

Unlike some of the other stars, who stayed only for their own acts, Mandela remained throughout the proceedings. Listening attentively to long discussions with nothing directly to do with South Africa. This was impressive. Famous politicians are not good listeners. Hate remained elusive. There were one or two attempts at definition. "Hate is the child of fear". "Hate is a way of appealing to be loved". Most of us were dubious about both of these, especially the second. Several speakers made only perfunctory reference to the nominal theme of the conference, before stating their views on their particular regional concerns.

Vaclav Havel was an outstanding exception. He delivered a carefully prepared and profound analysis of hate. He started by reciting common characteristics among "those who hate me personally": "They are never hollow, empty, passive, indifferent, apathetic people. Their hatred always seems to me the expression of a large and unquenchable longing, a permanently unfulfilled and unfulfillable desire, a kind of desperate ambition. In other words, it's an active inner capacity that is always leading the person to fixate on something, always pushing him in a certain direction, and is in a sense stronger than he is. I certainly don't think hatred is the mere absence of love or humanity, a mere vacuum in the human spirit. On the contrary, it has a lot in common with love, the fixation on others, the dependence on them, and the delegation of a piece

of one's own identity to them. Just as a lover longs for the loved one and cannot get along without him, the hater longs for the object of this hatred. And like love, hatred is ultimately an expression that has become tragically inverted."

I tried that out mentally on the haters I myself know best: those Irish people who hate the English. The first three sentences fit perfectly, and maybe the rest does too. I don't know the people concerned well enough to say. Another sentence of Havel's is equally true: "In the subconscious of the haters there slumbers a perverse feeling that they alone are the true possessors of truth, that they are some kind of super-humans or even gods, and thus deserve the world's complete recognition, even its complete submissiveness and loyalty."

"Superhuman" is right. Haters are, I believe, a kind of natural aristocracy among the deprived. Most of the deprived are not capable of a collective hate, maybe of any kind of hate. They can muster no more than a vague and dim resentment. Hate is resentment raised to its highest level and it is therefore inherently impressive to the merely resentful. One of the reasons why it is impressive is that it is frightening. Mere resentment is passive. But resentment raised to the level of hate is active and dangerous. When a hater talks, the merely resentful listen respectfully. Hate confers authority. Haters know this.

What can be done about hate? Our conference shed absolutely no light on this. This was partly my fault because I was keynote speaker for the panel on managing regional conflicts through dialogue and democracy. The note I struck was highly negative. I mentioned the case of Neville Chamberlain, a democratic leader who managed a regional conflict over Czechoslovakia by dialogue with Adolf Hitler and reported the result as "peace in our time".

The Oslo conference was an international exchange of unusually high quality. But like all conferences, it suffered from a tendency to assume that dialogue is necessarily good. Hate too is effective in dialogue, and perhaps more articulate than love. Iago destroys Desdemona and Othello through dialogue.

Discussion is not a good way to cope with hate, since the hater is, almost by definition, impervious to argument. When hate is a major factor in an international situation, it will either prevail or have to be forcibly restrained. Dialogue alone will not oust Saddam Hussein from Kuwait.

"I have no answer to hate," said Elie Wiesel at the end of the Oslo conference. It was a sobering conclusion, for no one alive has looked harder for that answer or had more reason to look for it. Perhaps the quest itself is the nearest we have to an answer.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

Last week, on the way to do some work in south-west France, I booked into the Novotel at Bordeaux airport: my flight was due in at 23.05, and though French hotels are pretty relaxed about people who turn up unexpectedly, always seeming to find a bed and bath for about £20, it occurred to me that this might not pertain after midnight. So a few evenings before departure I waited until after 8pm when rates are lower (yes, I also used to think it was 6pm until I got my bill), dialled the number and said "I am speaking from London", which concentrates the minds of foreign telephoneists.

"A little moment," she said, and passed me to a receptionist. "I need a room, do you have one on the 24th?"

For one night, the lady at Novotel said, it is no trouble: "Pouvez vous faxer?" Keep your voice down, I told her: my wife is in the other room. She gave me a fax number and I sent "confirm reservation Freud 24th" and received a few inches of typed lines from my machine to intimate that Station Freud had successfully spent 19 seconds in communication with Novotel's fax. I could have used up another five seconds asking it to reconfirm receipt of my confirmation of the booking... but Novotel and I have both been in the business a while and this belt-and-braces exercise seemed a waste of time.

This is not another tale of disastrous serial voyaging: we took off a few minutes late, flew south, arrived a few minutes late and by travelling with only hand luggage I got through the formalities at speed, to spend 30 minutes with the Hertz woman, who laboriously translated each item of my driving licence onto her hire document. So it came about that as I reached the hotel it was to see a heavily suited couple from my plane emerge from a taxi and reach reception before me. It was midnight. There was a single clerk on duty. I settled for a longish wait.

"I am Mr Freud," said the man with the luggage, lighting a cigarette; his wife nodded, possibly implying that she was Mrs Freud. "I shall spell that."

"Oui, c'est foule," said the clerk.

"Neau rheum," said the clerk. "The computer, it is broken."

Mr Freud puffed at his cigarette and said: "Let's be reasonable about this. I booked. You confirmed. I am here. My taxi has gone. My wife is tired - fatigued-like." Mrs Freud added that she had been there when her husband booked.

Novotel's first began anew: "The computer as swallowed all the reservations and we 'ave no bed." He then turned to me and asked whether I was together.

"Comment?" said I, knowing the language.

"Avec ce monsieur?" he explained. I shook my head. "So you will need two rheums?" he said to the Clwyds.

Clwyd looked bewildered. "Alors," said the clerk, and he dialled a number, announced his identity, asked whether there was accommodation. We waited. Mr Clwyd lit another cigarette. After some delay the receptionist announced success: "There is rheum at Hotel Ibis."

"How will we get there?" asked Clwyd. "We have let our taxi go."

"We booked three weeks ago," added his wife. "We did not expect this."

"Come this way," said the clerk.

At length he returned and told me about Hotel Ibis: drive back to the main road, tournez right, then tournez right again and Ibis is on your right. I was going to ask about reimbursement of my fax, but another party of putative guests arrived and I drove off as instructed.

When I reached my new hotel, Mrs Clwyd was standing at reception explaining to a Congolese clerk that they had booked at Novotel three weeks ago, she had overheard her husband making the reservation. C.L.W.Y.D.

"Is it the reservation code?" asked the man helpfully. "It's my name," said Mr Clwyd.

Seeing me hovering, the clerk said "And you are together, you will need two rooms?"

"No," said Clwyd.

"We are bateaux qui passent dans la nuit," I said.

"I thought I recognised you," said his wife. She turned to her man and said: "It's him from 'other hotel."

Robin Oakley, political editor, sees Kinnock offering himself as a hostage to fortune

Gulf debate that could hurt Labour

No world situation was so bad, it used to be said of Eisenhower's secretary of state, John Foster Dulles, that a few well chosen words from him could not make it a hundred times worse. Others have been inclined to regard the intervention of our House of Commons in the same light. But a recall of Parliament to discuss the Gulf crisis, in response to Neil Kinnock's demand, now looks inevitable.

Parliament has been recalled during the recess several times in recent years. It happened in 1968 over the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and in the same year over expenditure cuts in Britain. MPs were dragged back from their holidays in both 1971 and 1974 over outbreaks of violence in Northern Ireland. There was a recall in January 1974 to discuss the power cuts and the three-day week.

Opposition demands for a recall are not always met. It is for the government and the Speaker to decide. But ministers have not been noticeably discouraging to the idea and the Speaker is known to favour a recall. However, it may not be swift. Mrs Thatcher will not

reply to Mr Kinnock's letter until she returns from Finland, and Mr Kinnock agreed yesterday that it would be sensible to wait until Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, completes his six-day trip to the Gulf beginning tomorrow.

We cannot expect the high drama of that Saturday in April 1982 when the Commons met in emergency session to discuss the invasion of the Falklands. This time there are no ministerial resignations in the air, no questions of government competence. Britain's role is at best a secondary one. Nor indeed has there been any dramatic news making a recall more pressing than it was three weeks ago. The only thing that has changed since then, some cynical Tories suggest, is that Mr Kinnock has finished his holiday in Tuscany. Yesterday he said simply that he did not want the Gulf crisis to move too far into its second month without a debate.

But in fairness it can be said - as some Tories admitted yesterday - that the build-up of American arms will shortly reach the point where a choice can be made between the long haul of sanctions and an immediate military strike,

and MPs are entitled to hear the latest ministerial thinking.

Recall of Parliament would raise the political temperature in what could be the run-up year to an election, but it may not bring to an end the strange phoney war that has characterised domestic politics this August. Political correspondents' telephones have been silent as shadow ministers and publicity-hungry junior ministers have reined back, clearly feeling that there is something indecorous about inter-party slanging matches while the world is trembling on the brink and hostages are sweating in the Gulf. Even when MPs face each other across the chamber, the debate could prove bland.

Noticeable in Mr Kinnock's approach is his insistence that the government has done exactly what a Labour government would have done, that the debate will be calm and rational, emphasising the consensus between the parties. Parliament does not just meet, he said, for a barney. Diplomatic efforts and economic sanctions will make no impression on a man like Saddam Hussein without a willingness to use force in defence

of Saudi Arabia. Concessions to the Iraqi leader would be used to his advantage, not to ensure an acceptable outcome.

By drawing attention to the kind of crisis that is usually an advantage for any government, a debate now is likely to create more problems for the Opposition than for Mrs Thatcher. As a minister said yesterday: "This could be the catalyst we need to provide a Gulf factor which so far has been missing in the polls."

In the face of an outside threat, voters tend to rally to the government of the day, and if Parliament meets and Labour merely echoes the government's line, it will only enhance Mrs Thatcher's status as a world statesman. Yet the Opposition will have the worst of both worlds if it agrees in principle but whinges about government actions in detail.

And Labour faces the danger that reporting in some papers will focus not on responsible pronouncements from the front bench but on the contributions of party mavericks perhaps demanding the withdrawal of foreign forces from Saudi Arabia or a softer line in negotiations. The defence debate

shortly before the Commons went into recess was an example of the problems that can occur, with Labour backbenchers repudiating the party's carefully crafted new defence policy.

Mrs Thatcher, who will be expected to make a rare debating appearance in the Commons, will have to tread carefully. Tory strategists are well aware of criticism that she is looking anxiously for a new Falklands factor, and she must ensure that she is not seen as exploiting the confrontation. So far she has been content to stay in the wings while Douglas Hurd has held centre stage, but a full-dress Commons debate may prove too much of a temptation.

Gerald Kaufman, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, will find it harder still to curb his habitual curbing of the lip, and if Labour does start to worry away at the differences between Britain and the Americans (notably over the advisability of a pre-emptive strike once the full American force is in place), Mr Kinnock risks rapidly damaging the improved image so carefully built up in America before and during his recent visit.

A pantomime dragon, but its venom will surely kill



Bernard Levin finds the new brand of Welsh extremism absurd and pointless—and threatening in its fanaticism

In the usual way of those who have savoured the rich scent of appeasement and are eager for more: now they want all lessons to be conducted in Welsh. They have had their way, so far only in one area, and not all children, but their lust for power grows with what it feeds on, and having fed on Peter Walker it will soon be taking substantial bites out of David Hunt. The result will be, and could hardly not be, a deterioration of the quality of learning among the children suffering from this fanatic folly, but that will not worry those who instituted it - long before the results are apparent they will have moved on to the next stage of their campaign to turn Wales into a kind of Third World satrapy, where they can indulge their fantasies in reality, and enact fearsome penalties for those who defy them.

But a new and far more dangerous Welsh form of SIF has now appeared, for whom lessons in trigonometry given in Welsh to

monoglot English-speaking schoolchildren is mere trifling: these people, soon, are going to kill. They base themselves (down to the very uniform and dark glasses) on the IRA, and have the same fanatic outlook, beliefs and psychopathy. They call themselves "Meibion Glyndwr" or some such rubbish (it is supposed to mean "The Sons of Glendower"), and they have specialised in arson and bombing.

There was a similar campaign about 10 years ago. That petered out, largely because there was no substantial base of sympathy among the peaceful, even though nationalist, Welsh population. It was the same admirable attitude, of course, which - at much the same time - crushed the noisy but empty campaign of separatism when its advocates were so ignominiously crushed in the referendum. But this time, the SIFs of violence are even more inward-looking: they care nothing for enlisting the sympathy of the

Welsh people, who, in the fantasy world they have constructed, will be as much their helots as the English usurpers.

But crazed as they may be, they are made not only of words: A correspondent who has sent me information on these people emphasised, twice, the importance of my not revealing his name or whereabouts. (Though, incidentally, he is a Welshman of 150 years' Welsh descent.) There have been injuries in the terrorist campaign, and it will not be long before there are deaths too: if you think I am exaggerating, read the letters in the *Western Mail*, the leading Wales-published daily newspaper. Here is a boyo, D.P. Williams by name, cheering on the bombers from his tremendously dangerous place in the newspaper's pages:

... Whenever an attack takes place, somewhere in our hearts a flame kindles, pardon the pun... After an arson attack

the... inner joy of hearing news of such an incident... has recently become an open secret of our hearts... We proclaim "it's time for more hard-line tactics"... Sad, indeed, that we do have to resort to violence, but... the cowardly minority and the terrorist bombers... our heroes, our lost and only hope...

This fierce little fellow drew a reply a few days later from Menia and Ciri Jones and Hazel Morgan (seven letters, it seems, are the bombers' handwriting).

We are three of those thousands who feel deep pride deep down, in our hearts every time a holiday home... is attacked... It is not property alone that should be a target - we could name dozens of persons who live in a safe Welsh environment...

This foaming rubbish cannot be dismissed; bombs have been thrown, houses have been burnt down. There was a popular café, named "Y Sopaen (The Soup-can)", it was sold, and the new owners - English - renamed it *Allo, Allo*. It was fire-bombed; the excuse offered by Mr D.P. Williams, the machine warrior quoted earlier, was that by changing the name, the new owners were disrespectful of Wales and the Welsh.

The feud at once gives the clue: it is the archaic snivel of the failure looking for an excuse. I doubt if the Treasury could top up in less than six months the millions that have been poured into Wales (the Welsh television channel was perhaps the most extreme form of entirely pointless damage) but those who preferred to pretend that their lack of success was all the fault of the English are now having the time of their dried-up lives urging on the bombers. Such people long for a thrill, though they have forgotten what a thrill feels like: the bangs and flames in the night thick for a moment their poor, thin blood, whereupon the thought of real blood being shed somewhere else by others gives them a feeling that they are doing something to drive out the hated SIFs.

Incidentally, Owen Glendower (the whom the bombers claim to be the sons of) was a singularly absurd figure, not above giving himself royal titles, starting with Prince of Wales. The English mopped him up in no time.

Hot blast from the kitchen

House of Commons catering staff are threatening to close the kitchens in a one-day strike over low pay on one of the most colourful occasions in the political calendar, the state opening of Parliament in November. An estimated 4,000 lunches are served on the day of the Queen's speech. A strike would not only leave all those mouths unfed but would greatly embarrass the government.

Representatives of the 1,000 catering staff, who on average take home less than £100 a week, are planning an emergency meeting when they return to Westminster at the end of the summer recess and are holding talks with their trade union, the GMB. The union sponsors about 35 MPs, including the shadow chancellor, John Smith, and the shadow foreign secretary, Gerald Kaufman. Both dine regularly in the Commons restaurants and the union will expect them to throw their weight behind the strikers.

One Commons barman said: "The pay is not only low but the hours are long. If the House sits late we can work a 16-hour day. Striking on the day of the Queen's speech is our best weapon."

Sir Charles Irving, Tory chairman of the Commons catering committee, says: "They are marvellous staff and I hope we can sort this out before the state opening. Some very important guests are entertained that day, and the menus and table plans are done weeks in advance. If we

don't resolve things quickly I shall have to advise MPs to start booking outside restaurants."

Dale Campbell-Savours, one of the Labour MPs who has frequently raised the issue in the Commons, says: "Wages could be raised substantially if meals cost £1 more - and every MP could more than afford it."

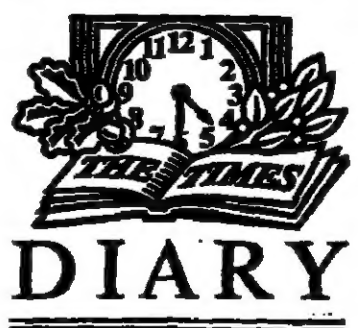
If Mrs Thatcher is at all superstitious, she will hope that Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, can sort out the mess. The catering staff last went on strike in March 1979, and later the same day Jim Callaghan's Labour government lost a vote of confidence and a general election was immediately called.

Lost to the left

One of the centres of left-wing artistic subversion in London has fallen into the clutches of its arch-enemy, Lady Porter's Westminster city council. The Cockpit theatre, home of GLC agit-prop productions, has long aroused the ire of Tory MPs, who in 1984 demanded its closure because of its "political and sexual licence". Now the Cockpit will have to become respectable or face the final curtain, as Westminster takes over funding from the late Inner London Education Authority.

Labour MP Tony Banks, who funded the Cockpit as chairman of the GLC arts committee, fears the worst. "If Lady Porter can find an excuse for closing down anything which does not put on plays which Tory Central Office would approve, she will do so."

Helena Moss, head of Westminster council's grants and arts



unit, confirms that Lady Porter has ordered the theatre to clean up its act. She says the council does not expect the company to maintain its "loony, controversial and left-wing" image.

But the message has not reached the theatre's management. One of the first touring companies to perform there under the new funding will be Gay Sweatshop. The true-blue councillors may also react badly to the forthcoming feminist production of *Dr Faustus*, which has Mephistopheles played by a woman - though not, despite the insinuations of her Labour opponents, by Lady Porter.

Ringside seats

Disregarding the tanks and armoured personnel carriers, Jordan's minister of tourism, Abdul Karim Kabariti, has issued a reassuring message for tourists. Suggestions that Jordan is in the middle of a potential war zone are totally misleading, he claims - in fact, it remains an idyllic holiday destination far

from strife, real or potential. Making a virtue out of the cancelled bookings for September and October, he says: "Tour operators often have difficulty booking rooms in Aqaba and Petra at this time of year. Here is a chance they should not miss."

Eyes down

The Strangers riot earlier this year has claimed another casualty. Blind bingo players have been deprived of their braille bingo cards, previously produced exclusively by inmates of the Manchester prison. Since prisoners were moved from the wreckage earlier this year, the

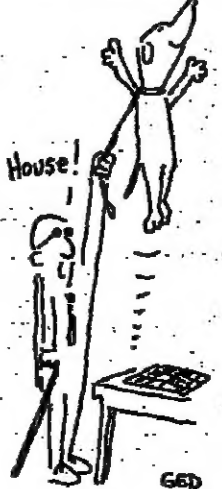
Thinking mink

Now that even Harrods refuses to stock fur-coats and a self-respecting woman would be seen dead in a mink, what is to become of all the unwanted furs? The problem has been taxing staff at the anti-fur campaigners Lynx, which last November organised a successful "amnesty" in Trafalgar Square at which owners were invited to hand over their coats. As a result, Lynx now has a stockpile of furs that must originally have cost hundreds of thousands of pounds.

"We have a garage-full," says a spokesman, "and we get more all the time because the owners cannot sell them. Oxfam no longer accepts furs, however valuable, and jumble sales can't get rid of them even at 50 pence each."

So the Lynx stockpile is to be destroyed, at a "dignified public ceremony" in November. Now Lynx is worried about the method: "We don't want to burn them, as that would be environmentally unsound. The furs have been treated with chemicals and there would be a frightful smell and huge clouds of smoke." Nor is burying an option. An unscrupulous dealer might dig them up and hang on to them in the hope that wearing them might one day lose its moral opprobrium.

The Fur Education Council suggests that, with winter approaching, they be given to poor people in Eastern Europe, who have yet to see our furry friends in the same enlightened way. "Certainly not," says Lynx. "They are badges of shame whoever is wearing them."





COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE

August 29: The Queen held a Council at 12.40 pm.

There were present: The Lord Mackay of Clashfern (Lord Chancellor, acting for the Lord President), the Lord Belstead (Lord Privy Seal), the Lord Denham (Captain,

Gentlemen at Arms) and the Lord Fraser of Carmyllie (Lord Advocate).

Mr Robert P Bulling was in attendance as Deputy Clerk of the Council.

The Lord Mackay of Clashfern had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

School news

Bedford School

The Christmas Term begins today with 1135 boys in School. Dr I.P. Evans, from St Paul's School, is the new Head Master. William L. Banks is Head of School and Richard J. Stone, Captain of Rugby. The Old Bedfordian Annual Dinner will be on Friday, October 12, at the Banqueting Hall, Lord's Cricket Ground when the Guest of Honour will be Mr Dudley Wood, Secretary of the Rugby Football Union. Speech Day will be on October 20, when the Lord Ross of Newport will be the Guest of Honour. "David Copperfield", a joint production with Bedford High School, will be performed in the Theatre on December 5, 6, 7 and 8. The Old Bedfordian Rugby matches will take place on December 15.

King's School, Bruton

The Christmas Term starts on Monday, September 3. The new House was refurbished during the holidays, completing the refurbishment of all the Houses. The new Norton Library was opened last term, and the Old Library has been made into a new Meeting and Recital Room. There will be 340 pupils in the School this term. The Confirmation Service, conducted by the Rev. Dr George Carey, Bishop of Bath and Wells, will be on Saturday, November 3, and the Carol Service on Friday, December 7.

The Leys School, Cambridge

Autumn Term at The Leys starts today. The Rev John Barrett takes up his appointment as Headmaster. Rufus Taylor is Senior Prefect. The Buxton Memorial match will be played on Saturday, September 22, and will be followed by the O.L. Dinner at the University Arms Hotel. "The Crucible" will be performed in the School Theatre on November 21-23, and the School Concert is on November 30. The Carol Service is to be held at the University Church of Great St Mary, on Friday, December 14, at 3 pm. Term ends on December 15.

Queen's Gate School, London, SW7

Autumn Term begins today, Thursday, August 30. Joint Head Girls for the year are Katie Dondel and Nadia Field. Open Evening for Common Entrance candidates and their parents will be on Thursday, November 8. The Carol Service is on Wednesday, December 12, at St Augustine's Church, Queen's Gate. Half term is from October 15-26 inclusive, and term ends on Thursday, December 13. The Centenary Year of the foundation of the School will be celebrated during 1991, beginning with a service at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, on Thursday, March 14.

Birthdays today

Dr Barbara Assel, rheumatologist, 67; Sir Harold Acland, chairman, Toysbee Hall, 72; Lord Brain, 64; Sir Patrick Brangan, QC, former Attorney-General, Gold Coast, 84; Sir Keith Bright, former chairman, London Regional Transport, 59; Sir Charles Burman, former chairman, Tarmac, 82; Mr Allan Davis, theatre director, 77; Mr Kenneth Gill, trades unionist, 63; Dr A.B. Gilmour, former director, NSPCC, 62; Mr M.R. Harris, company director, 68; Mr Denis Healey, CH, MP, 73; Air Marshal Sir Frank Holroyd, 55; Rear-Admiral John Howson, 82; Lord Keith of Castlecre, 74; Sir Desmond Lee, former president, Hughes Hall, Cambridge, 82; The Countess of Longford, 84; Miss Sue MacGregor, broadcaster, 49; Dr Peter North, principal, Jesus College, Oxford, 54; Sir Peter Parker, former chairman, British Railways Board, 66; Sir Henry Phillips, former colonial administrator, 76; Sir Richard Stone, economist, 73; Professor J.M. Thoday, geneticist, 74; the Very Rev Professor T.F. Torrance, theologian, 77; Sir Philip Woodfield, civil servant, 67.

Times guides

The Times Guide to Eastern Europe, edited by Keith Sward, and The Times Guide to the Environment, by Siruan Simpson, are published by Times Books today.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.M. Garthwaite and Mrs C.A. Sanders. The engagement is announced between Charles, second son of Mr and Mrs Marjorie Garthwaite, of La Cour Normande, St Martin, Jersey, and Camilla, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Nelson, of Maitland House, St Clement, Jersey.

Lieutenant D.N. Heley, RN and Miss E.C.M. Brooks. The engagement is announced between David, son of the Rev and Mrs J. Heley, of Burnham Market, Norfolk, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.J. Stokes, of Worth Abbey, Sussex.

Mr J.G. Heywood and The Lady Sophia Meade. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Brigadier and Mrs Anthony Heywood, of Monkton House, Monkton Deverill, Wiltshire, and Sophia, daughter of the late Earl of Clarendon and of Catherine, Countess of Clarendon, of Rainscombe Park, Oare, Marlborough, Wiltshire.

Mr J.W. Jack and Miss L.M. Perkins. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Dr Jack, of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Perkins, of Islington, London.

Mr D.B. Kennaway and Miss C.J. Wallace. The engagement is announced between David Bell, son of the late Mr James Kennaway and of Mrs Stanley Vereker, and Caroline Jane, eldest daughter of Mr Alistair Wallace and Mrs Guy Nicolson.

Mr A.R. Meadows and Miss A.M. Applebaum. The engagement is announced between Andrew, second son of Mr and Mrs Roger Meadows, of Kilmerton, Somerset, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Vernon Applebaum, of Upton Grey, Hampshire.

Mr A.C. Ozer and Miss J.E. Harper. The engagement is announced between Andrew Carl, younger son of Mr K. Ozer and the late Mrs Ozer, of Lichfield, and Jane Emma, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard J. Harper, of Bromfield, Cannock, Staffordshire.

Mr J.M. Oulton and Miss L.J. Hunter. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Oulton, of Rottingdean, Sussex, and Lucy, second daughter of Dr and Mrs John Hunter, of Great Massingham, Norfolk.

Mr R.A.C. Pardee and Miss H.E. Brooks. The engagement is announced between Rupert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Pardee, of Hampstead, London, and Hilary, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Brooks, of West Horsley, Surrey.

Mr C. Parnell and Miss P.A. Best. The engagement is announced between Colin, son of the late Mr and Mrs F. Parnell, and Patricia Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Best.

Mr G.G.D. Simpson and Miss J. Roper. The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Brigadier and Mrs John Simpson, of Hampshire and Sydney, and Jenny, elder daughter of Sir John Roper, of Thorpe Perrow, Bedale, North Yorkshire, and Milet Delme-Radcliffe.

Mr D.C. Fulford and Mrs J.C.A. Deacon. The marriage took place on August 19, 1990, at St Agnes Parish Church, Cawston, between Mr D.C. Fulford and Mrs J.C.A. Deacon.

Mr M.H. Thomas and Miss A.B. Stephenson. The Service of Blessing took place on Saturday, August 18, 1990, at the Church of St Mary, Driffield, Gloucestershire, following the marriage of Mr Maxwell Thomas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Howard Thomas, of Beconsfield, Buckinghamshire, to Miss Angela Stephenson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Stephenson, of Ifield, Sussex. The Rev Canon Peter Jeffries officiated.

Appointment. Mr Mark Jones to be keeper of coins and medals at the British Museum.

OBITUARIES

CDR SIR PETER AGNEW

Commander Sir Peter Garnett Agnew, 1st Bt, Conservative MP for Camborne from 1931 to 1950, and for South Worcestershire from 1955 to 1966, died on August 26 at the age of 90. He was born on July 9, 1900.

PETER Agnew had twin careers, in the Royal Navy which he entered in the final year of the first world war and in which he saw copious service in the second, and in politics. Indeed it is fair to say that his devotion to the navy in the second world war militated against his political advancement afterwards. Though he returned from sea to serve his party in parliament in 1944, when a posting to the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, enabled him to attend debates at Westminster, he was not perceived as a rising man in quite the same way that he had been before war broke out in 1939.

A Cheshire man, Peter Garnett Agnew was educated at Repton and went into the navy in 1918. He spent his midshipman's time in the battleship *Hood* on his first commission, and then, in 1923, went out to join the sloop *Bluebell* on the China station. He had further spells in battleships, again in *Hood* and in *Renown*, before going to Jamaica in 1927 as ADC to the governor. In Jamaica he met his first wife, Enid Frances, the daughter of an Australian and widow of Lieutenant-Colonel O. H. E. Marescaux, of Cherry Garden, Jamaica. They were married for 54 years until her death in 1982.

After further periods of service, in the battleship *Queen Elizabeth* and the royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, Agnew retired as a lieutenant-commander in 1931 to devote himself to politics. In that year he overturned the Liberal majority in Camborne, a constituency he was to represent until 1950, when he somewhat surprisingly lost the seat, having survived the Labour landslide of 1945. He quickly made his mark in parliament. He was young and handsome, with great ability and personal charm. Many found the naval forthrightness of his speeches refreshing. He



found favour with Ramsay MacDonald, then Labour prime minister, and also with his own leader, Stanley Baldwin. In 1935 Walter (afterwards Lord) Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, chose him to be his parliamentary private secretary. It was no easy task for an eager Conservative to be the right-hand man to a Liberal minister in a predominantly Tory House of Commons, but Agnew carried out his duties with tact. From 1937 Agnew was parliamentary private secretary to Sir Philip Sassoon, then First Commissioner of Works. Loyalty to his party was one of his characteristics, as he was to demonstrate even when a greater loyalty, that to his country, took him back to sea on the outbreak of war in 1939. He was mentioned in dispatches for his part in the Narvik operations in which his ship, the destroyer *Bedouin*, took part. But during these fierce battles off the Norwegian coast he still found

time to signify his support for the beleaguered Neville Chamberlain who by May 1940 was fighting for his political life. In the event this support, communicated via Agnew's wife, was not made public until it appeared in a letter to *The Times* on May 13, 1940, by which Chamberlain had fallen and Churchill had become prime minister. Agnew later served in the cruiser *Kent* on north Atlantic and Arctic convoys, before coming back to London as training commander at the Greenwich naval college in October 1944, an appointment which allowed him, at least partially, to resume parliamentary attentions.

But the impetus appeared to have gone out of his career, with his five-year absence from the centre of political operations. He was briefly an assistant whip in the "caretaker" government of May 1945 and held his seat — though with a majority slashed from 6,905 to 584 — during the Labour landslide at

the general election of that year. He continued as an opposition whip during the years of Atlee's first government, but in 1950, with his constituency now redrawn as Falmouth and Camborne, he lost his seat to his old Labour opponent, F. H. Hayman, who had breathed down his neck in 1945. Although Labour's fortunes were now palpably on the wane he did not stand at the 1951 general election, and until he was returned in 1955 as member for South Worcestershire, managed a large farm.

In 1956 he brought an action against Beaverbrook Newspapers and John Gordon over an article published in the *Sunday Express* in which Gordon had criticised *Punch*, suggesting it had become a political organ with a left-wing bias. It was alleged that Commander Agnew had recently taken over *Punch*, that he was lacking in loyalty to his party, and that his constituents should "get after him." But Commander Agnew had never had any connection with *Punch*, and the defendants published a full correction and apology, and paid £500 damages.

From 1955 onwards Agnew's role was very much that of stout backbencher, and he was one of a small group who used to assist the increasingly frail Winston Churchill on his attendance at the House. He was an influential member of the 1922 committee and his loyalty to party held firm during the Suez crisis. This loyalty made the words of warning he uttered during the Macmillan leadership crisis of 1962 carry even more weight, and when he spoke of "unease in all sections of the party" he was given serious attention by the Tory hierarchy.

Agnew was also a staunch and loyal churchman. He had been, from 1935, a member for Truro diocese in the House of Laity of the Church Assembly.

He had many hobbies, among them being painting, wood-cutting, and the care of young trees. After the death of his first wife, he married, in 1984, Mrs Julie Marie Watson. The marriage was dissolved in 1987. He is survived by the son of his first marriage.

MEHDI AKHAVAN SALESS

Mehdi Akhavan Saless, the Iranian poet, died in Tehran on August 27. He was 61. He was among the dozen leaders of the Persian literary scene this century.

AUTHOR of several collections of poems and numerous articles of literary criticism, Mehdi Akhavan Saless was both a product and a leader of the modernist movement of Persian poetry started by Nima Yushij in the 1920s. While firmly belonging to the new movement, he rejected the total liberation from rhyme and rhythm that some contemporaries promoted. His emotional affinity with,

and deep knowledge of, classical poetry affected his style, making him a bridge between the old and the new. His language, too, was rich in the Persian sounds of ancient Bostana, Tuss and Nishapur, as exemplified by Roudaki, Firdausi and Khayyam, and was more readily comprehensible to the man in the street than was the poetry of Numa Yushij. Nevertheless, even for the better educated reader, it can be a struggle at times.

Born and educated in Mashad, not far away from the birthplace of Firdausi, he became a teacher in a village near Tehran before joining the ministry of education in the

capital. His support for the oil nationalisation movement under Dr Mossadegh (1950-53) resulted in a short spell in prison, following which he became a literary journalist and a producer of literary programmes for the national radio.

Described by one commentator as "an emotional critic of all of our history of defeats", Saless's poetry was remarkably free of "social criticism". Though reflecting the turmoil of Iran in modern times, he often wrote love poems that are moving and fresh.

After the Islamic revolution

of 1979, Saless did not produce any work of note. He regarded the return to Islamic influence in the country as a national disaster and was keen not to be seen supporting the new government. When invited to cooperate with the new rulers, he is reported to have replied that true poets could not be on the side of any government.

He was a slight, but noisy figure, with a full white moustache in his last years. He had the appearance of a traditional dervish, but was not a mystic at all. Instead, he sought inspiration in the religious hymns of Zoroaster (Zarathustra) the Medes.

Piping

High notes at Argyllshire Gathering

PERHAPS one day MacCaig's Tower in Oban will be covered, to form a building that will house all the Argyllshire Gathering's piping competitions under one roof.

Until then, no doubt there will always be complaints by pipers that they must walk in all weathers from St Columba's hall to the Corran Halls, or to the Great Western Hotel, between events. Inverness, fortunate to have the Eden Court Theatre, has blotted from many memories the former peripatetic nature of the Northern Meeting piping events.

The 108th piping competition of the Argyllshire Gathering saw further rearrangements, in particular the former winners' march, Strathspey and reel being held on the Wednesday instead of at the games on the Thursday. The number of pipers competing continues to increase.

The principal event, for the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal, was won by Sergeant Brian Donaldson, Scots Guards, who played Ronald MacDonald of Morar's tune, "The Vaunting", known in Gaelic as "A Bhollich", or Nonsense. There were 29 competitors for this, one of the highest prizes for piobairachd, including a number who qualified by

selection by the joint committee of the Argyllshire Gathering and Northern Meeting, rather than winning the Silver Medal or a lesser prize in the Gold Medal event. The Senior Piobairachd event, open only to Gold Medalists, for the Grant's Senior Piobairachd Trophy and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Cup, was won by Donald MacPherson, who has taken these prizes several times before. He played "Lady MacDonald's Lament", composed in 1790 by Angus MacArthur.

The Silver Medal, open to pipers not eligible for the Gold Medal, was won by Lance Corporal Michael Gray, Q.O.H. The MacGregor Memorial Piobairachd Competition, founded in 1981 by the Highland Society of London, in memory of John MacGregor, piper to Prince Charles Edward in 1745, is an exciting competition for pipers aged 21 and under, in which each competitor must play two tunes, and is judged on both. This year the first prize was won by Mary Ann MacKinnon, who played "Beloved Scotland", and the "Lament for the Viscount of Dundee".

First prize in the former winners' march, Strathspey and reel was won by William

McCallum. He also took second prize in the Senior Piobairachd event, playing "The Croal". On an aggregate of points awarded for these two events, he also won the Royal Celtic Society's prize for the best all-round piper.

The Duke of Argyll's medal for Argyll pipers aged under 16 years was won by Alasdair Cain. The march of the stewards and members of the Argyllshire Gathering through Oban to the games field was led by the Duke of Argyll, and accompanied by a pipe band formed by the competitors in the second day's events. This was led, according to tradition, by the winner of the Gold Medal, Sergeant Donaldson.

The day started with the competitions for local pipers for march, Strathspey and reel. The march was won by Charles Ferguson, and the Strathspey and reel by Lance Corporal Neil MacCallum, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and he won the Duncan cup for the best local piper.

The open competitions are now graded into A and B sections. In the march events, the A section was won by Lance Corporal Gordon

Walker, R.H.F., who also came second in the A Strathspey and reel. The B section march was won by Corporal Michael Elder, Black Watch. In the Strathspey and reel competitions, the A section was won by Bruce Gandy, and the B section by Mary Ann MacKinnon.

The full results were as follows:

March 1st: 1. Sgt Brian Donaldson, 2. Gordon Walker, 3. Gordon Walker, 4. Gordon Walker, 5. Gordon Walker, 6. Gordon Walker, 7. Gordon Walker, 8. Gordon Walker, 9. Gordon Walker, 10. Gordon Walker.

March 2nd: 1. Gordon Walker, 2. Gordon Walker, 3. Gordon Walker, 4. Gordon Walker, 5. Gordon Walker, 6. Gordon Walker, 7. Gordon Walker, 8. Gordon Walker, 9. Gordon Walker, 10. Gordon Walker.

March 3rd: 1. Gordon Walker, 2. Gordon Walker, 3. Gordon Walker, 4. Gordon Walker, 5. Gordon Walker, 6. Gordon Walker, 7. Gordon Walker, 8. Gordon Walker, 9. Gordon Walker, 10. Gordon Walker.

March 4th: 1. Gordon Walker, 2. Gordon Walker, 3. Gordon Walker, 4. Gordon Walker, 5. Gordon Walker, 6. Gordon Walker, 7. Gordon Walker, 8. Gordon Walker, 9. Gordon Walker, 10. Gordon Walker.

March 5th: 1. Gordon Walker, 2. Gordon Walker, 3. Gordon Walker, 4. Gordon Walker, 5. Gordon Walker, 6. Gordon Walker, 7. Gordon Walker, 8. Gordon Walker, 9. Gordon Walker, 10. Gordon Walker.

March 6th: 1. Gordon Walker, 2. Gordon Walker, 3. Gordon Walker, 4. Gordon Walker, 5. Gordon Walker, 6. Gordon Walker, 7. Gordon Walker, 8. Gordon Walker, 9. Gordon Walker, 10. Gordon Walker.

March 7th: 1. Gordon Walker, 2. Gordon Walker, 3. Gordon Walker, 4. Gordon Walker, 5. Gordon Walker, 6. Gordon Walker, 7. Gordon Walker, 8. Gordon Walker, 9. Gordon Walker, 10. Gordon Walker.

March 8th: 1. Gordon Walker, 2. Gordon Walker, 3. Gordon Walker, 4. Gordon Walker, 5. Gordon Walker, 6. Gordon Walker, 7. Gordon Walker, 8. Gordon Walker, 9. Gordon Walker, 10. Gordon Walker.

March 9th: 1. Gordon Walker, 2. Gordon Walker, 3. Gordon Walker, 4. Gordon Walker, 5. Gordon Walker, 6. Gordon Walker, 7. Gordon Walker, 8. Gordon Walker, 9. Gordon Walker, 10. Gordon Walker.

March 10th: 1. Gordon Walker, 2. Gordon Walker, 3. Gordon Walker, 4. Gordon Walker, 5. Gordon Walker, 6. Gordon Walker, 7. Gordon Walker, 8. Gordon Walker, 9. Gordon Walker, 10. Gordon Walker.

MAXWELL JONES

Dr Maxwell Shaw Jones, CBE, a psychiatrist specialising in rehabilitation, died aged 83 on August 19. He was born on January 4, 1907.

MAXWELL Jones was a pioneer in the democratisation of mental health treatment giving more attention to the views of patients than had hitherto been the case. He was born in Queenstown, South Africa, but grew up in Edinburgh and graduated from the University of Edinburgh Medical School in 1935. He studied medicine at the universities of Pennsylvania and Columbia for two years as a Commonwealth Fund Fellow. His postgraduate work at the Maudsley in London was interrupted by the outbreak of the second world war. He went to Mill Hill Emergency Hospital, where he worked with soldiers suffering from cardiac neurosis, a stress reaction to army life which had symptoms similar to a heart disorder.

Jones established groups and meetings of patients and staff as a part of treatment. The patients not only discussed their physical conditions but also their personal concerns. The patients gradually took the lead in teaching newcomers about their disorders, and the staff assumed an auxiliary role. The programme succeeded in sending three out of four soldiers back to duty and attracted international attention. The power of the group, rather than a medical hierarchy, to solve problems formed a nucleus of Jones's subsequent work.

Following the war Jones worked with traumatised prisoners of war in a hospital near Dartford, Kent. He and his team implemented the social structure used at Mill Hill to find social and vocational roles for the former POWs in the local community. After the POWs had returned to their respective communities Jones became convinced that the method he had developed would work with "social misfits" — drinkers, alcoholics and addicts, the chronically unemployed and many young people on the margins of civilian society. The ministries of health, labour and pensions imitated the

social rehabilitation unit at Belmont Hospital with Jones as its first medical director. Later as an autonomous hospital renamed Henderson it specialised in the treatment of chronic character disorders.

In 1959 Jones became Visiting Commonwealth Professor of Psychiatry at Stanford University, California. He pioneered the extension of the therapeutic community in a prison in California, which was later extended to 12 others. He was one of the few non-Americans to receive the Isaac Ray Award of the American Psychiatric Association. He was director of education at Oregon State Hospital and Professor of Psychiatry at Oregon Medical School from 1960 to 1962.

Returning to Britain in 1962 Jones became a physician superintendent of Dingleton Hospital in Scotland, staying there till 1969. He transformed the mental hospital with a community-based comprehensive mental health programme, setting the pace for revolutionary mental health reorganisation. In the hospital decisions were made at a daily meeting of staff and patients. The staff trained GPs to care for disturbed people in the community. Later, the group included clergy, police, probation officers, district nurses and those in the school system. Forums in which local residents could meet and discuss social problems became an extension of the therapeutic community.

Jones was a staff development consultant at Fort Logan Mental Health Centre in Denver, Colorado, from 1969 to 1974. His emphasis shifted to education and its role in the prevention of social disorder. He remained in the United States, working as a consultant until 1982 when he moved to Wexford, Nova Scotia, Canada. The author of seven books, Jones was a member of the expert advisory panel of the World Health Organisation and a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, London.

In 1954 he was appointed CBE for his work at Dartford. He is survived by his wife, Chris, and three daughters.

Horticulture

North-East triumph at national dahlia show

By ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A GROWER from the North-East of England triumphed at the National Dahlia Society's show by scooping the prize for best exhibit.

Mr D.P. Boyd, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was awarded the D.B. Crane cup for a mixed exhibit of dahlias in the championship classes which included an especially noteworthy vase of "Reg Keene", a medium semi-cactus variety in flame shades. This exhibit was also awarded the Terry Clarke perpetual challenge cup.

Despite the hot dry weather the show, which took place yesterday in Westminster, central London, was well supported with high-quality exhibits, although the giant decorative dahlias were slightly smaller than usual. The best giant decorative bloom in the show was "Kidd's Climax", in pink and cream, in an exhibit of 12 giant dahlias in the championship classes staged by Mr G. Armstrong, of Hastings. This exhibit was awarded the A.T. Barnes perpetual challenge trophy. Mr Armstrong also included a new variety of his own raising named "Liam Thomas Armstrong", in pale yellow with attractively pointed petals.

Also in the championship classes, the Midlands Dahlia Society, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, won the affiliated societies class, gaining the Herbert Brown perpetual challenge cup. This is the tenth time the society has won this trophy. The mixed exhibit included three blooms of the popular exhibition variety "Hamari Gold", one of which was runner up to best giant decorative bloom in show. The Vincent F. Parker perpetual challenge cup for giant cactus and semi-cactus dahlia

was won by Mr P.G. Orley, of Harlepool. His exhibit included "light red 'Jupiter' and its sports 'Rose Jupiter' (rose-pink) and 'Pink Jupiter' (bright cyclamen pink).

Mr Robin C. Pearce, of Hallow, Hereford and Worcester, has gained the E.J. Widdowson perpetual challenge trophy for 12 varieties of pompon dahlias. This collection was judged best exhibit of pompons and awarded the Coronation 1953 cup. "Willow" varieties, popular with exhibitors, were included: "Willow's Violet" (bright purple), "Mark Willo" (bright cerise) and "Willow's Surprise" (very dark rusty red).

In the trophy classes Mr D. Hewlett, of Hayes, has gained the Maurice Lord challenge cup for nine varieties of giant decorative dahlias, in which he specialises. The exhibit included several distinctive varieties: deep-red "Kenora Wildlife" and pure white "Water Hardisty" with attractively quilled petals.

The Fred Fuller perpetual trophy for nine varieties of pompon dahlia has been won by Mr Robin C. Pearce, of Hallow, whose exhibit included an especially noteworthy vase of "Willow's Violet".

In the seedling classes (for new varieties) Mr L. Jackson, of Carlisle, has gained the Jescot perpetual challenge cup, awarded for the best seedling. As yet unnamed, it was a cactus dahlia in flame shades that gained for Mr Jackson this coveted trophy.

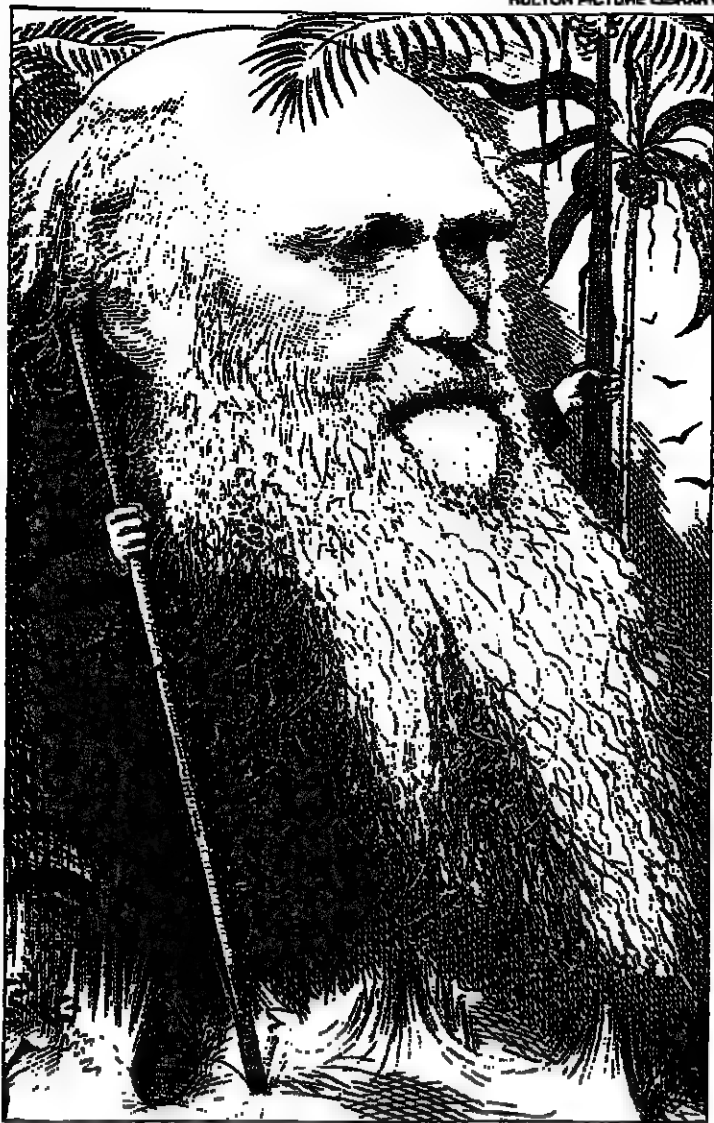
The best exhibit in the novices division was a vase of six blooms of pompon dahlia "Moon Place" (deep crimson-purple), staged by Mr A.G. Davies, of Neyland. He was awarded the J.W. Montague cup.

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Challenging Darwin's sacred theory of life



Darwin: favoured natural selection as the mechanism of change

As one of science's most sacred icons, the classical theory of evolution, which holds that species adapt through random genetic changes, has stood largely unchallenged for well over a century. But that may change with the announcement of dramatic new evidence that, on the face of it, strikes at the heart of one of the theory's founding principles.

The evidence comes from Dr Barry Hall, of Rochester University in the United States, who has found that certain changes, or "mutations", in the genetic code of bacteria occur more often when they are useful to bacteria than when they are not.

This may seem to be nothing more than the canny survival strategy of a few bugs, but it challenges the basic belief that harmful or "neutral" spontaneous mutations are just as likely as useful ones.

Generations of scientists since Charles Darwin have clung to this belief tenaciously, saying that the genetic mutations underlying evolution's slow grind occur randomly and without regard to their usefulness. Humans evolved from slime not by way of "purposeful" mutations, or even mutations triggered by environmental cues, but by natural selection.

By this process, random genetic mutations, which happen to make an organism more successful and produce more offspring, are passed on with greater frequency to succeeding generations than harmful ones. Evolutionary theorists have pointed to many examples of adaptation in nature such as the long neck of the giraffe which enables them to take food from trees.

But the new research suggests

Will scientists have to revise their views about evolution?

David Concar reports on a revolutionary theory from America



Sticking their necks out: giraffes are seen as a classic example of adaptation in nature

that useful and harmful genetic mutations may arise at different rates depending on the stresses an organism faces in its environment. In the world of evolutionary biology, this idea is nothing short of heresy.

Evolutionary heretics and defenders of the faith last locked horns when a British-born biologist, John Cairns, and two colleagues at Harvard University made a similar claim two years ago.

At first glance, the results, like Dr Hall's, seemed to conflict with the basic belief that an organism cannot adapt its genes to suit its environment. Physical characteristics and behaviour flow from genes but information does not flow in the opposite direction

— or so the orthodox theory holds.

Debated with all the fervour of a religious conflagration, Dr Cairns's heretical discovery was eventually dismissed over a lack of rigorous laboratory evidence. But Dr Hall has extended Dr Cairns's observations, showing that they may be more general than originally thought. "I can demonstrate this effect every day in my laboratory, and there is reason to believe that it occurs in nature as well," he says.

The orthodox view of evolution rests on the assumption that the production of genetic mutations is completely separate from the process of natural selection. But Dr Hall's findings suggest a much more intimate relationship between the two.

"If this turns out to be widespread, we will have to revise most of what we think about the way evolution works," he says. One implication of his finding is that adaptive evolution may be faster than biologists have thought.

But exactly how beneficial mutations arise in bacteria more often than harmful or neutral ones is still a mystery. Reporting his findings in the latest issue of the journal *Genetics*, Dr Hall proposes an underlying random mechanism in which some genes are more prone to mutations than others during times of stress.

"I am not saying that bacteria are directing their own evolution," he emphasises. Whereas Dr Cairns

refers to the mutations as "directed mutations", Dr Hall prefers the term Cairnsian, in honour of their original discoverer.

In his experiments, Dr Hall examined genetic mutations in strains of the bacterium *Escherichia coli*. Taking bacteria that normally depend on the availability of the amino acid tryptophan for growth, he deprived them of their nutrient for long periods of time.

The result was that the deprived colonies began producing mutant strains capable of synthesising their own supply of tryptophan at a rate far in excess of the normal rate. But the only mutations which increased at the accelerated pace were those related to synthesising tryptophan.

He demonstrated a similar response from bacteria that were unable to make cysteine, another amino acid nutrient. "It is the specificity of the process that is so surprising," Dr Hall says. In the light of the new research, the conventional view of random mutations in evolution may have to be revised, but the basic premise of natural selection will still stand.

Charles Darwin himself favoured natural selection of accidental variation in a species as the main mechanism of adaptive change, but did not rule out the possibility of an environmental influence, an opinion for which he was criticised by later biologists.

By contrast, variation induced by environmental influences is the sole adaptive mechanism in the earlier evolutionary theory of the 18th century French naturalist Lamarck.

© Nature Times News Service 1990

What are Old Masters made of? A new technique involving a proton microprobe scanner can date and identify works of art from slivers of paint

When Rembrandt painted *The Anatomical Lesson*, he provided scientists and art lovers with a fascinating glimpse into the study of human anatomy in the 17th century. Now, tiny slivers of paint from his works and those of some of his contemporaries are being used to understand the anatomy of the paintings themselves.

The department of nuclear physics at Oxford University and the National Gallery are working on a joint project, funded by the Science and Engineering Research Council, which uses a scanning proton microprobe (SPM) to analyse samples of lead white pigment taken from canvases. The powerful microprobe, which has

Art's brush with science

several features in common with the more familiar scanning electron microscope (SEM), can be used to detect minute traces of elements in samples smaller than 1 micron, about one hundredth of the diameter of a human hair.

Art historians and restorers have been quick to see the advantages of adding the SPM to their existing armoury of analytical techniques. Information about the nature of the materials used is important for the restoration and attribution of paintings and can provide insights into the techniques used by artists in the past.

In the SPM, a nuclear particle accelerator produces a high energy beam of protons of about 3 million volts. The protons are focused down to a 1 micron spot, and the beam is scanned across the surface of a specimen. When the beam penetrates the sample, energy is released in the form of X-rays, and it is possible to determine what is in the sample by displaying the X-ray energies as peaks on an X-ray spectrum.

The Oxford SPM group, comprising Dr Julian Henderson, a science-based archaeologist, Dr Milko Jakaic of the nuclear physics

department at Oxford, and Dr Ashok Roy and Dr Aviva Burnstock of the scientific department at the National Gallery in London, has already collaborated with scientists in the Louvre in Paris on a study of the pigment layers in a painting by the 17th century artist Le Nain, which has shed light on how the artist mixed his colours.

Poisonous lead white pigments have been used by artists since at least the 13th century but have been replaced by other white pigments in the 20th century. Their exact use in a painting depends on the period and the

artist, but Dr Burnstock says "they were used in just about every aspect of painting at some time". Rembrandt commonly mixed lead white with other pigments to make a shade, and some 19th century artists used it to prime canvases.

Lead white was obtained from various sources in Europe and made in a number of ways, leading the National Gallery scientists to suspect it might contain different proportions of trace elements that could not be measured using standard analytical techniques.

Dr Henderson says the use of the SPM in the Rembrandt study "tests the technique in unpredictable ways. It has great potential".

NINA MORGAN



Search for truth: detail from Rembrandt's *The Anatomical Lesson*

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Continued on page 30

HEALTH

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

Lessons in the womb

Elizabeth I was multilingual at an age when most of today's children are struggling with Janet and John; 150 years later, the conversation of precocious Georgians was on philosophy and classics, while their modern contemporaries would have thought only of Gary Lineker and Gazza Gascoigne.

Children's ability to learn seems to some extent to be determined by expectation and training, but even the most erudite 18th century family would be surprised at the methods used at the California Prenatal Unit, where Professor Glen Doman, the director, has started to enrol children in his classes at the 24th week of their intra-uterine life.

Dr Keith Thompson, writing in the magazine *Doctor*, describes Professor Doman's use of ultrasonic and echographic equipment to observe the effect

on his pupils of external stimuli. It seems that the foetus shares the horror felt by its grandparents' generation for the sounds of Jimi Hendrix or Acid House music, whereas classical harmonies are well received.

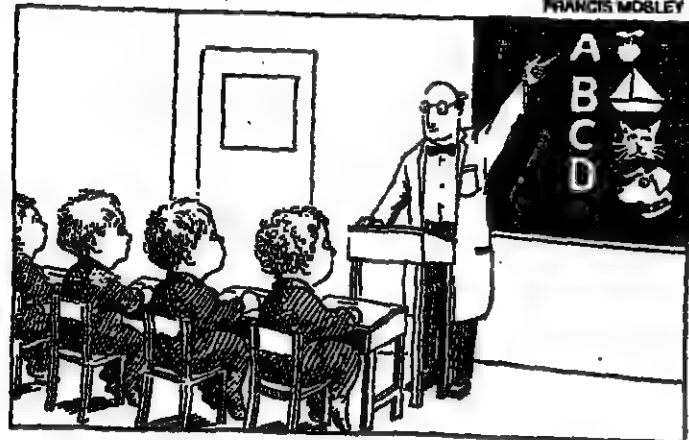
Professor Doman has shown that the unborn child reacts pleasantly to its mother's voice, an experiment which builds on earlier work done in New Zealand which demonstrated that newborn children recognise the voice of their father when they meet for the first time in the neo-

natal ward. Professor Doman applies receivers to the pregnant mothers' abdominal wall so that they can speak to their children more clearly; not unnaturally, they respond to tone of voice rather than the actual words. Later the Doman-educated children, particularly if they are also breast-fed, are not only more intellectually alert than their contemporaries but have brisker reflexes, are stronger physically, and have better hair, nails, teeth and muscular coordination.

Birth is no excuse for slacking in the Doman school. The professor believes that between the age of one month and six years the brain can assimilate knowledge without effort, and that this intellectual capacity can be increased by training. His pupils read before they are three and at the same time can play an instrument, multiply, divide, add and subtract two-figure numbers, and speak at least two languages.

Professor Doman also feels that the intra-uterine period must be a time of calm; emotional tension in the mother can be as damaging to the child's developing brain as a poor diet, drugs or excess alcohol.

The work of the Pre-natal Unit is not without its critics. Some believe that it may cramp creativity, others that the in-house children will burn out early. These critics may be heartened by the research published this week of Dr Vasudevi Reddy of Portsmouth Polytechnic, who has demonstrated that a child's sense of humour is well developed by the age of six months.



FRANCIS MORLEY

Prisoners of the past

The reunion of the gaunt, hollow-cheeked Brian Keenan with his family touched the hearts of millions of television viewers. His determination to overcome the effects of incarceration showed when, despite his toneless, whispering voice, his nervous mannerisms, and disorganised breathing, he was still able to display the sense of humour for which he was famed before becoming a hostage.

Dr Caroline Gorst Unsworth of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, the London-based organisation which is rapidly becoming accepted as a world leader in the field, said that after the initial euphoria of having a prisoner home there is nearly always some degree of disappointment, as family and friends have to modify their expectations in the light of experience. The high incidence of family disintegration in these circumstances is evidence that continuing experienced psychological support is needed if readjustment is to be successful.

Dr Gorst Unsworth has found that it is easy for the ex-prisoner to become dehumanised, partly because everybody wants to meet the hero of the moment, and all too easily he can become an exhibit to be wheeled on and off the social stage. In order to cope with this exposure, the victim has to repress his feelings of depression and the sense of pain which captivity has given him, for he feels that to show any

signs of anger, or to admit to anything other than perfect physical and mental health, would be an admission that the terrorists had won. If not expected, these repressed feelings may surface years later.

Mr Keenan's remarks that he had not wanted to leave his prison cell without John McCarthy were no kindly pretence but the expression of a very deep feeling experienced by many prisoners, who fear that in future they will be able to relate closely only to others who have shared

the same experience, and that their emotional responses, or the lack of them, will be misunderstood by those who have not lived through the same ordeal. Returning hostages have to learn that it is unwise to expect a family to be able to comprehend fully the degree of psychological distress suffered; the family for their part have to realise that the experience will have changed a victim's values, and that once cherished and shared beliefs which used to be important may now seem trivial.

Soldiers' stomachs

The British Army fighting in the Boer War suffered many more casualties from gastro-intestinal bacteria than at the hands of Generals Botha and Smuts and their commandos. Knowledge of hygiene and field catering has improved over the past 90 years, but if the desert heat of the Gulf does allow bacteria to proliferate, the British forces can rest assured that they will not suffer as their predecessors on the veldt did, for the Ministry of Defence has equipped them with large supplies of Ciproxin (ciprofloxacin), an antibacterial agent which rapidly kills a wide variety of organisms, and is particularly useful against gastroenteritis.

The ministry advisers suggest Ciproxin, a 4-quinolone, should be the first line of attack against bacterial diarrhoea, but should not be prescribed to air crews as it occasionally causes sleepiness

and even some mild confusion, with loss of dexterity, undesirable side-effects in a pilot flying many millions of pounds-worth of Jaguar or Tornado armed with a lethal weaponry of rockets and cluster bombs.

In civilian life there are other contraindications to the use of 4-quinolones; they should not be prescribed for epileptic patients or children, and do not mix with alcohol, antacids, anti-coagulants or the theophylline preparations used to treat asthma.

The use of Ciproxin is not confined to the treatment of gut troubles, as it is also effective against a host of other infections, including bronchitis, throat, ear and eye infections, and even penicillin-resistant gonorrhoea.

This month another 4-quinolone, Unioin (norfloxacin), has been introduced by Merck Sharp & Dohme specifically for cystitis and urinary tract infections. The drug is concentrated in the urine to levels 300 times higher than in the patient's blood. A three-day course, 400mg twice daily, clears 97 per cent of urinary infections.

Helping hand for mothers

BARRY GREENWOOD

Is massage for mother and baby the solution to post-natal exhaustion?
Barbara Lamb investigates

Post-natal depression is taken seriously by the medical profession, and is often treated with antidepressants or psychotherapy. However, the wider problem of exhaustion which usually sets in following childbirth and can be the cause of the depression, tends to be regarded as inevitable and unimportant. A mother and baby recovery programme, new to this country, is now claiming to offer some help.

The Maharishi Ayurveda Mother and Baby Programme takes the mother's wellbeing as much to heart as that of the baby. The programme recognises that while the infant usually thrives, it can take several weeks, often months, for a woman to feel herself again after giving birth. Elizabeth Stafford, a 39-year-old pharmacist from Nottingham, who took the course shortly after the birth of her son last October, says that as a consequence she experienced none of the overwhelming fatigue that followed the birth of her first two children, now aged five and seven. Despite a difficult labour, she had an abundance of energy that surprised her. Within four weeks she was able to resume work full-time.

Using herbalised oils, a relaxing but rigid regimen of daily body massage by a trained therapist concentrates on the areas most affected by the pregnancy and labour, such as the abdomen and lower back. In the United States, where there are 15 clinics devoted to Maharishi Ayurveda, doctors claim that the oil helps to balance the system as it penetrates the skin. This programme — a one to six-week course — has been running in America for three years.

The massage, known as Abhyanga, is carried out in the woman's home, and the father of the child is encouraged to help. At the same time, both parents are taught a simple baby massage technique which, it is claimed, results in a happier, more relaxed infant.

The mystical sounding "Ayurveda" (roughly, the science of life), of which transcendental meditation is an integral part, had its roots in India 5,000 years ago. The natural "mind and body approach" to treatment is recommended by its practitioners for many 20th century ailments and stress-related illnesses.

Rosemary Patterson, a physiotherapist trained in Abhyanga, who treated Mrs Stafford, has seen women with previous difficulties sail through the post-natal period after using the method. "It is imperative to prevent any tiredness cycle building up," she says. "Once that cycle starts, a new mother is locked into it and it becomes all-consuming." Women are encouraged to start the programme as soon as possible after delivery. Many of those treated by Ms Patterson tend, like Mrs Stafford, to be older mothers on



Healing touch: the Maharishi Ayurveda massage technique is used on a mother

their second and third babies and notice the contrast. The baby is easier to deal with because the mother is more relaxed.

Baby massage also helps, Ms Patterson says, to give infants better sleeping patterns and an increased resistance to infection. "One woman I treated had severe post-natal depression with her first child, and was apprehensive about it occurring with the second, but it didn't happen," she says. "As well as problems with the abdomen and the lower back, all the ligaments become more lax during the latter stages of pregnancy. This causes pain around the pelvic area. The treatment also speeds up the process of getting the system back to its pre-pregnancy state."

As an older mother, intent on resuming her career as soon as possible, Mrs Stafford felt this programme, though expensive (courses cost £275 for the first week of treatment, £245 for each consecutive week), was worth a try. She found a one-week course was sufficient.

"With my first baby," she says, "it was a shock to discover how painful and traumatic the whole thing can be, and afterwards how demanding it is. When you're

really tired your perception changes and, although I was not really depressed, things just looked gloomy. It was no better with my second."

"This time, after an exhausting labour, when I returned home my two older boys seemed very noisy and my nervous system very jangled. After only a few days' treatment I felt more relaxed."

Her abdomen, which she said was delicate and tender, returned to normal in a few days and the low back pain which resulted from the epidural lifted completely. Both she and her husband learnt the technique for massaging their son and they maintain he has been the easiest of the three.

American-born Angela Lesley, who is an Abhyanga technician, says that the increased responsibility can tire the father, too. She emphasises the role he can play. "Once the father learns the baby massage it helps him to create a special bonding with the child," she says.

Norah-Ann Luck, a 38-year-old nurse, felt that her husband helped her gain maximum benefit from the treatment. "It connected the three of us in a way that might not have happened without it. Massaging my son was a way of giving

him everything I got myself, and my husband felt a special closeness, too. Here was somebody giving me something and I just felt nourished and pampered. It was also the only thing to make a dent in the tiredness."

Dr Elizabeth Young, a GP and obstetrician at the Homerton Hospital in east London, has recommended the mother and baby programme to several of her patients and has witnessed the benefits. "Their frame of mind is so much more positive," she says. "Pregnancy and delivery are the biggest events a woman can go through in terms of changing physically, emotionally and socially, yet modern medicine is more concerned with how much milk a mother can give the infant, how much care and how much stamina she has to cope."

She is convinced that an increasing number of GPs are becoming aware of the problem. "Midwives I have spoken to even acknowledge that this sort of help is badly needed. There is nothing I have come across in the Maharishi Ayurveda treatment that conflicts with my traditional medical training. It just seems to be complementary to it."

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The acceptable face of a nervous breakdown?

The Guinness trial heard how Ernest Saunders had suffered a breakdown under the strain of the investigation. But doctors know there is no such thing — so what really happened to him?

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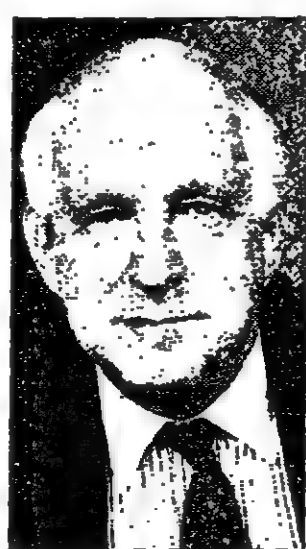


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The term nervous breakdown has no medical validity. It appears neither in the international classification of diseases, nor in the index of any of the standard textbooks of psychiatry. A lay medical dictionary defines the term as "a non-technical term for any mental illness serious enough to interfere with daily activities".

The definition is so all-embracing that it is a godsend to anybody who wants to conceal the truth. It is a convenient euphemism for bandying about at cocktail parties, coffee mornings or boardroom meetings, where the true nature of a patient's mental ill-health needs to be concealed from family, neighbours and colleagues. Doctors have long found that it is an acceptable diagnosis, whereas the precise diagnosis of a patient's mental disease, whether it is depression, acute anxiety state, schizophrenia, or any other of the host of psychiatric complaints which would render a patient incapable of carrying on with their daily activities, would cause offence.

Fortunately, as the stigma of mental disease recedes, and as treatment improves, honesty is beginning to prevail, and an accurate diagnosis is becoming more acceptable. Ovid, the Roman poet, said that "a sick mind cannot endure any harshness". Human nature has changed little since the days of Julius Caesar and today, as then, patients with the potential to crack under strain may need protecting if they are not to succumb. When a patient does break, it is usually down a line pre-determined by both their nature and nurture. A doctor can usually make a reasonable guess as to how disaster will affect the personality of any particular individual.



Changed man: Ernest Saunders in 1986 and (right) 1987



Ernest Saunders has spoken frequently of his plight, and his ever-loyal children have written extensively on his condition after the Guinness affair erupted. A Swiss doctor called as a witness by Saunders told the court of the "physical and mental exhaustion" of this "broken man" which led him to be admitted to a Swiss psychiatric clinic for 12 days in March 1987, shortly before returning to be interviewed by inspectors from the trade and industry department. Saunders's son, interviewed in the *Sunday Times Magazine*, described how towards the end of 1987 his father was "chronically depressed" and needed "mothering".

Nobody could doubt the strain on any man's psyche of being suddenly moved from a position of power and riches, where he was the revered head and saviour of an old-established firm, to the role of a social and professional outcast, penniless, and the subject of a score of criminal charges. To understand the full impact on his mental health it is

necessary, as in any psychiatric case, to look into the background. Despite his public school and Cambridge education, Saunders was essentially an outsider who longed to be an insider. He was born in Austria, and Jewish, and educated at a time when anti-Semitism was still overt. Dr Michael Nelson, an English psychiatrist with a large practice in Boston, Massachusetts, and a teacher at the Harvard Medical School, is also Jewish, and the same age as Saunders. He too was brought up at boarding school in England during the war. Dr Nelson says: "Nobody who has not met Mr Saunders can talk about the impact of the Guinness affair on his personality. Any Jewish man of his age and background can, however, understand the tensions of his early life. Immigrants have a great desire to be accepted, or if acceptance is asking too much, they hope to avoid rejection."

"To be secure in any identity a patient needs to be able to relate to a strong family and

cultural background, which is difficult when most of the greater family are left behind in Austria, and your culture is rejected by your fellow-countrymen."

Striving for status is present in most middle-class families, not merely Jewish ones, and is well described as a factor which renders a personality vulnerable to stress.

From the evidence given in court, and his family's accounts of Saunders's state of mind before the trial, it is difficult to determine what lay behind the term "breakdown" when it was used in the trial; but judging from his background, his success in the City, and descriptions given of his status-conscious personality and rigid relationships with his colleagues, many would have expected him to develop a depressive illness accompanied by a high level of anxiety when the crash came.

Depression is often precipitated by bereavement or loss, and there can be few greater bereavements for a successful businessman who has fought his way by late middle age to be the chief of one of the great commercial houses in this country than to find himself in the dock. Not to be depressed and anxious in these circumstances would be unnatural, but to be so depressed as to be unable to cope is an indication that treatment is needed.

In the past, depressive illnesses have been classified in two groups, variously described as psychotic, true or endogenous, and neurotic, reactive or exogenous. The terms are too simplistic, but even so there are obvious differences in the symptoms from which depressed patients suffer, and there is no doubt that to some extent these can be grouped together.

The psychotic depressive tends to have early morning waking, even though he may

have fallen asleep rapidly. He loses weight, suffers from a loss of libido and self-respect, and notices that his mood is more optimistic in the evening than in the morning. His physical and mental actions are slowed, and his thoughts repetitive. The reactive depressive, on the other hand, may appear quite animated as he talks incessantly of his problems and his plight. He, too, loses some weight, and finds it difficult to get off to sleep, although once asleep he stays that way. His mood may well be more dependent on the company than the time of day.

Dr Nelson, like most modern psychiatrists, does not classify depression. "Rather, I tend to study various signs and symptoms of disease, for these can be divided into those which are essentially

physical, and those which are mental. The physical signs are the biological response, such as the loss of weight following the loss of appetite, the loss of libido, insomnia, a slowing of all the bodily mental functions, and for these the only effective treatment is medication."

"But there are also psychological signs and symptoms — the loss of self-esteem, self-denigration and even anger which may be turned inwards, and perhaps above all a feeling of hopelessness. These symptoms have to be treated by counselling. Patients, whatever the cause of their trouble, will have a mixture of these symptoms, but the actual mix will vary from patient to patient."

THOMAS STUTTFORD

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Grotesques in a class of their own

Victoria Glendinning follows the continuing adventures of Julian among the eccentrics of London's literary world

This is a good book, though there is every reason why it should not be. A.N. Wilson is a professional, fluent and versatile author, and one who knows how to get his effects. Yet his new novel reads like the work of a less experienced writer. This has some advantages; it's bumpy, authentic work, like a hand-knitted sock.

He has set himself problems in his choice of knitted-pattern. The pretence of the novel is that it is an autobiography. Yet the narrator, looking back over time, remembers what everyone wore and ate, and recalls whole rafters of dialogue verbatim. His younger self, the subject of this book, is unlovable — not interestingly wicked, just vain, self-absorbed, and lacking in all insight.

This novel is a continuation of *Incline Our Hearts*, which described Julian growing up in a country rectory. Now he is in London, ambitious to act and to write, and working in a Soho pub called the Black Bottle. There is a cast of eccentrics, including a porn-peddler and an alcoholic northerner who wrote, too long ago, a best-seller. Those who are not grotesque to the point of caricature are boring in an upper-class English way. "Rupert Starling's dullness was so extreme as to be almost interesting." It's a bit rash to write about people who are "almost" interesting.

The time is the late 1950s, though you would hardly know it apart from the quantity, and the brands (Senior Service, Park Drive, Du Maurier) of the cigarettes smoked. There is not much story: Julian marries and enjoys a deliciously happy sex-life. Raphael Hunter, the philandering biographer who overshadowed *Incline Our Hearts*, is now a literary lion

and presenter of an arts programme on television. He becomes Julian's patron and friend; or does he? Whose side is he on? Influence, snobbery and who-knows-what in English life are the horrid underpinnings to this book. Wilson's knowing mockery of the viler aspects of the London literary world and the "insane vanity" of authors is spot-on.

Hunter has written the first volume of a biography, *Petworth Lampitt: The Hidden Years*. It horrified the Lampitt family — which includes an ambassador,

A BOTTLE IN THE SMOKE
By A.N. Wilson
Sinclair-Stevenson, £13.95

the principal of a women's college at Oxford, a Labour peer, a top civil servant — by its revelations of promiscuous homosexuality. The plot of the book concerns the Lampitts' efforts to prevent Hunter writing his second volume, and Hunter's destruction of our young hero's marriage.

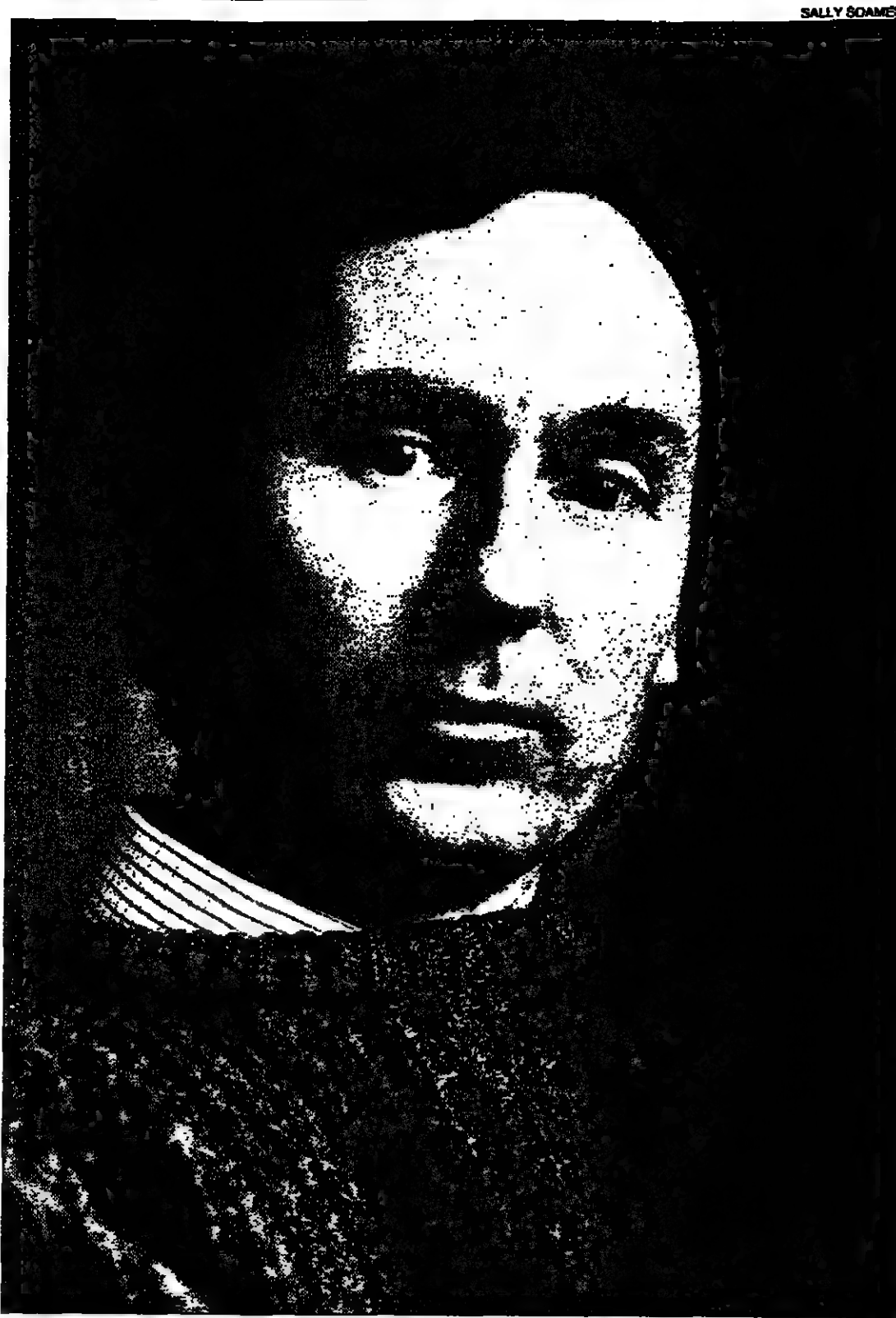
So far, so fairly good, "almost interesting" like Sir Rupert Starling, and with some stunningly funny pages. But there is a redeeming idea behind it all, about the fantasies people live by. Our narrator, in his maturity, includes what amount to essays about religion, love, ambition, and the myths people construct in order to tolerate existence. "At the heart of experience is a bottomless hole of irrationality." Everyone needs something to fill that hole, and if it's not God it will be gin, or something odder.

His Uncle Roy, a vicar of suburban origins, worships the illustrious Lampitt family, follow-

ing them as if they were the royal family or a football team. Aunt Deirdre lives passionately and equally vicariously through the doings of the Mulberrys (Wilson's alias for the Archers) on the wireless. The theatre, sex, art, are all ways of making life transcend itself. Julian fantasises automatically about other people, turning them into "characters", which is why the grotesques here are so two-dimensional. (When his old schoolteacher turns up, his mannerisms do not seem so authentic to Julian as his own well-practised imitations.)

Everyone is fluid, to be endlessly reinvented. "It is upon the fallacies of fixed personalities that biographers have made their trade", and Hunter, the demythologising biographer, is the villain of this piece. People have their fantasies of themselves, too. One of the female grotesques claims old love affairs with royalty; and maybe Petworth Lampitt's homosexual diaries were made up. Maybe Julian's "autobiography" is made up, too, now I come to think of it, which would account for all those verbatim conversations.

There are unwearying swings in the novel between farcical scenes and situations, and passages of serious introspection. It is when Julian realises the corruption of his artistic aspirations, which have become a mere flailing around after a fantasy of fame and success, that he begins to change, hoping to write about his experience simply and honestly. (On the evidence, he has a way to go.) Julian quotes Blake's remark that "each man has a world within, greater than the external". It is struggling with both at once that gives this book the un-slick quality which makes it memorable.



Fluent and versatile: A.N. Wilson forces readers to consider which fantasies are sustaining their own lives

An inside story for nun but the brave

Brian Morton

HOMEBOY



By Seth Morgan
Chatto & Windus, £13.99

murder of a Chinese store owner, Pious Wing. Having sacrificed his half-witted partner Rooki to a police shoot-out, he lingers too long at the scene and is arrested and jailed on a holding charge.

Morgan implies that only in jail is there any semblance of the order and morality that is so conspicuously lacking in the broken mirror of the outside, but hardly "real" world. The opposition of outside and inside is exact, but almost subliminal. The

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence are, of course, gay men in drag, engaged in a fruitless mission to the underworld. In jail, it is a cross-dressing under-sheriff whose brief indulgence pushes the plot into overdrive, and it is the convict Reverend Bones, a brutal nemesis with a line in dialogue out of Deuteronomy,

who upholds the law, in sharp contrast to Holy Hubert's flaccid big-brother rhetoric. Morgan steers as far away as possible from any

bought-in morality. He is funny, and like Dickens, creates characters who are instantly identifiable by their speech. Morgan's drug and prison lore have an unimpaired verve that suggests a distinctly chequered personal experience underlies his educated awareness of past literature.

At the time of her death, he was Janis Joplin's fiancé. If it is a shock to think of so unguided a missile as she was entering into something as forward-looking as an engagement, there may be some small, uncomfortable truth about Joplin in the portrayal of the street girl, Rings'n Things, as a lost child of the American middle class.

Morgan has dragged around his own ball and chain, working like Joe Speaker as a strip-club barker on Broadway, then serving a substantial term in prison for armed robbery. It was during this stretch that he won the (unfortunately named, in the circumstances) PEN essay competition for convicts. *Homeboy* is a more lasting achievement and a very remarkable one, which far outlives its curiosity value as a view of life from the inside.

Past clues to the present

CRIME

Marcel Beylins

THE BURDEN OF PROOF

By Scott Turow
Bloomsbury, £13.99

ALEJANDRA "Sandy" Stern, in *Presumed Innocent*, Scott Turow's extraordinary first novel, was the smart defence lawyer to the police chief accused of murder. In *The Burden of Proof* Stern is the protagonist, trying to unravel the mess of his own life. The two books share a physical, social and legal background; but the reader turning to Turow's second novel should be warned against expecting mere variations on the theme of the first, let alone a follow up. *The Burden of Proof*, unlike its predecessor, is not a courtroom drama: there is no suspense in waiting for a verdict, no final twist revealing the true perpetrator. It is a mystery story nevertheless, serious and philosophical.

Sandy returns home after a business trip to find his wife Clara in their garage, having deliberately and calmly asphyxiated herself to death. They had been married, apparently contentedly, for 31 years; he had noticed nothing in her to explain her action, and her note curiously requested forgiveness but gave no hint of reasons. Their children, grown up and grown distant, are equally ignorant.

Slowly, through his guilt and sorrow, he starts accumulating clues and evidence, treating his wife's suicide almost as he would one of his cases. Shortly before her death, she gave someone \$850,000, but the money cannot be found. More shockingly, there are indications of a sexual liaison; but with whom? His personal quest becomes entangled with his work. There is a link between Clara's conduct and the legal problems of his sister's husband, a highly successful but possibly fraudulent dealer in the commodities market; the authorities are closing in. His dull son-in-law becomes involved. Family, career and the mystery of Clara connect and merge.

This is not, of course, new territory for the American novel. The anguished journey into past relationships in order to discover and justify the meaning of present existence is a formula verging on the cliché. Turow breaks no original ground; but of its type *The Burden of Proof* works well

enough. Stern, the Jewish refugee from anti-Semitic Argentina, is a strong outsider figure, as much in his professional angst as his personal guilt.

His legal training becomes his emotional strength. In his heart he bleeds, but he also analyses the content and flow of his blood. The book (like *Presumed Innocent*) is full of legal detail, not as informative padding, but as an essential cornerstone of Turow's message. Institutions are what matter, fundamentally. The family is one such: the law is another. Each affects the other; each depends on the other; both are necessary to avoid society lapsing into absurdity. In the end, Turow/Stern emerges optimistic. Stern does not disintegrate, but finds instead new sexual and emotional comforts, under the same rules as he had the old. *The Burden of Proof* is occasionally wordy and a little pompous, but its characters have strength and some depth. It should not be taken quite as seriously as I suspect the writer would wish us to; it is far from being an important novel, but is not a slight one either.

• *The Bold Thing*, by Mark Daniel (Barrie & Jenkins, £12.95). Another entrant in the When-Dick-Francis-Retires Stakes Micky Brennan is a once successful trainer fallen on bad times (pison, ostracism, bitterness), who finds work in a small Irish stable belonging to a tough, wheel-chair-bound American woman. Enter a valuable stallion, followed by a big betting scam, true love, and the IRA. Daniel knows his racing, but hasn't quite mastered the Francis skill of making it easily comprehensible to the non-racing reader. Good action and plot; more work needed on dialogue.

Home is the hunter

Sally Edworthy

THE MUSIC ROOM
By Dennis McFarland
Macmillan, £13.95

A TRAIL OF HEART'S BLOOD WHEREVER WE GO

By Robert Olmstead
Secker & Warburg, £14.99

THE COLLAPSING CASTLE

By Hayden Middleton
Hamish Hamilton, £13.99

IN Dennis McFarland's first novel, music is the food of love, hate, resentment, grief, alcoholism, heartbreak and suicide — in other words, of an absorbing story. It all starts in that most reassuring of settings: a Manhattan police station, complete with ringing telephones, hollering voices, rapid-fire typewriters and a fat cop directing a pale relative to Lieutenant Karajan's office.

The relative is Martin Lambert, a record producer (minority composers and women), whose younger brother Perry has jumped out of a window on the 23rd floor of a hotel. Suicide — but why? Perry was young, happy, a pianist of promise.

Lieutenant Karajan's name may be visually reminiscent of von Karajan, but he is not to be a great conductor in this case. Perry's death is his swansong before retiring from the force for a "cushy job" teaching sociology. The Music Room, ultimately, is about how Martin (Marty) Lambert also becomes tired of the detective world of leads and motives, and pieces together the mystery of his brother's death by investigating his own heart.

Home is where the heart is proverbially to be found, but it takes a lot of hunting to find it in the Lambert household. Side-stepping tantalising discoveries about Perry's life in New York — the girlfriend, dog and shrink that nobody knew he had, his conversion to Catholicism, his work with abused children — Marty searches the memories of their shared childhood for causes and answers. Plagued by nightmares and flashbacks, he sees Perry lingering always indoors, Perry discovering that their grandparents' plane crashed because they were drunk, Perry knowing that his mother had planned to abort him.

Rarely do the flashbacks, with their recurring themes and gradual crescendo, seem contrived. The novel is a mine of character and sorrow — and a promising debut.

After Dennis McFarland's fugue-like novel, *A Trail of Heart's Blood Wherever We Go* is like listening to a radio playing

John Denver with interference. It is a huge slab-of-life book set in remote New Hampshire and peopled by lumberjacks, maple syrup farmers, hairdressers and welders; its message is that big men cry, too.

At the centre is Eddie Ryan, the undertaker, and Cody, a freelance logger who on Christmas Eve steers his enormous truck to Ryan's door with a severed body tied to the front. Cody moves in and together he and Eddie laugh over gossip and cry over history. Death being Eddie's trade, episodes seem inspired by the latest corpse-on-scene.

Robert Olmstead belongs to that school of realism whereby every detail is considered telling and we are not spared anything that goes on behind closed doors. Would that a few doors stayed shut in *The Collapsing Castle*, by Hayden Middleton, which is an unsatisfactory mixture of obsessive love, Dark Age legend and Freudian dream phenomena.

Daniel Seagriff is a historian manque; his wife is a television celebrity. When Seagriff falls in love with a beautiful student who is possessed by King Vortigern the Thin — a key figure in the myth-history of the founding of England — he starts to have strange hot flashes and visions of chanting witches, burning towers and phallic symbols.

As a so-called psychic thriller, the book does not work because the outcome is obvious from the start. As a "magic history", it bores.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL



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Fading away in W8

Nicola Murphy

BRIEF LIVES

By Anita Brookner

Cape, £12.95

BERTRAND Russell described life as a long second best. Anita Brookner's outlook is very different. For most characters in most of her novels on most days, life is no better than overlong seventh best. Her latest is no exception. The mortal coil traps none more firmly than the subjects of *Brief Lives*: the lonely and unwanted, the ageing and isolated; those who have learnt that life is merely a test of the soul's strength.

At the heart of this wholly convincing, startlingly painful novel is Fay Langdon. She is another classic Anita Brookner creation: a woman denied the sentimental indulgences of love and friendship; a woman with grey spots on her hands and no colour in her hair; a woman, like so many other Brookner women, trying not to panic at the approach of old age. Now in her late sixties, and necessarily worldly wise, she wryly recalls the events of her life. We are supposed to chuckle at her innumerate and foolish supposition that living would be a happy business.

By all accounts she leads a very successful life. Blessed with a pretty face, a pretty voice and a little fame as a singer, Fay marries a handsome junior partner in a law firm and lives in his handsome house. He is never unfaithful and after he dies she becomes the mistress of the handsome senior partner, Julia, his wife and her long-standing "friend" never finds out and no tears are shed. For many years she keeps her figure. Now she has a Kensington flat, an income and a voluntary job. She still has a very tight touch with poetry. To the outside world Fay had had what every woman wanted.

And she tries to remember that. After all, it was bad form for a married woman, for any woman of settled years, to complain of unhappiness. So Fay tries not to feel shame when her husband does not call her, tries not to feel and every time she travels abroad alone, every time she buys a solitary park chair. On the one occasion that she loses control, she says something foolish, and asks permission to leave and requests that she be loved, her admirer, lies.

Without children and without companions, Fay is left only with alliances forged long ago, alliances made for business reasons between people who never really liked one another. Fay finds Julia alarming. Julia finds Fay boring. Julia is an ex-stage actress. She is also capricious and demanding. She bullies Maureen, her irritating live-in companion and patroniser. Pearl, her lonely ex-dresser, Fay does not stop her, or stop seeing her. Much of their unsatisfactory lives is spent together.

Anita Brookner writes with infallible precision, words are not wasted, opportunities not missed. This is a fine, poised and pointed examination of stoicism in a woman too marginal to be missed. *Brief Lives* is beautifully written.

Saturday Review

In chancery

Does Peter Ackroyd's biography of Dickens fulfil the great expectations held for it? Peter Davalle judges

Plus

Hergé heroes: Martin Spence on some brothers of Tintin and Snowy

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ARTS

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Fatal but obsessive attraction

David Robinson reviews Clint Eastwood's *White Hunter, Black Heart* and *The Big Man*, and, below, Geoff Brown on Burt Reynolds in Bill Forsyth's *Breaking In*

Clint Eastwood's lustre as megastar too easily eclipses his achievement as director. In 20 years he has directed 14 films: a track record which has established him as one of the strongest contemporary American directors. As director he combines assured, traditional, unpretentious high-craft technique with a varied choice of subjects. The huge commercial success of films like *Dirty Harry* permits him to take risks with un-voguish projects like *Bronco Billy* or *Bird*.

Over the years a number of other directors and actors have attempted to make *White Hunter, Black Heart* (PG, Lumière, Cannon Fulham Road). Finally it has fallen to Eastwood as director and star. The script, by Peter Viertel, James Bridges and Burt Kennedy, is based on Viertel's 1953 roman-à-clef, inspired by his experiences working in Africa with John Huston, as a writer on *The African Queen*.

As the novel's John Wilson, Huston is portrayed as beautifully eloquent, demagogically charming, ruthless, egocentric, generous, intensely complex. As Huston actually did in real life, the film director abandons the film, disregarding the disastrous costs to his employers, in order to pursue a senseless desire to hunt and kill an elephant. Charged that it is a crime, he insists, "no, it is not a crime — it is a sin. The only legal sin!"

In *Wilson/Huston*, Eastwood discovers another of those obsessive who fascinate him and regularly feature in his films. He never actually knew Huston, but by studying films and recordings he has caught his distinctive speech so well that it is an incarnation rather than an impersonation.

Huston is recognisable in his gangly elegance as well as his mastery of the *mot juste*, delivered in his gracious drawl. In one memorable scene he devastates an odious anti-Semite English woman with a seemingly good-

humoured anecdote that becomes progressively more lethal as it approaches its stinging tail.

The character is a mass of contradictions: violent against racists, he is himself not above a racist slur when it comes to film producers (the formidable Sam Spiegel is personified by George Dzundza). At the end he is made to face the fatal destructiveness of his actions.

Viertel represented himself in the book as Pete Verrell, the alternately amused and exasperated observer. Such a passive role is difficult on film, but is played with humour and sympathy by Jeff Fahey.

Handsomely photographed by Jack N. Green, the African scenes — with the elephants, the hard terrain, the river boat and the rapids — must have presented major logistical problems. Characteristically, Eastwood makes it all look simple and uncluttered.

"When an artist feels more confident of his abilities and has more experience, it is easier to be simple," he said in a recent interview. "Being an actor relieves me from having to impose my presence as director, so that the audience can stay inside the story without being distracted by the interesting angles of the man behind the camera."

David Leland does not have the advantage, and *mise-en-scène* overwhelms the story in *The Big Man* (18, Odeon West End). Leland was co-writer on Neil Jordan's *Angel and Mona Lisa*. The inclination in those films to impose a mythic dimension on contemporary realistic characters and situations is taken to an extreme in *The Big Man*.

Based on William McIlvanney's 1985 novel and scripted by Don McPherson, the story is given token political significance by setting it in a ghost town that was once a prosperous Scottish mining community. The big man (Liam Neeson) is a former miner who has been unemployed since being imprisoned for violence during the great coal strike. Humiliated to



Clint Eastwood, with Mel Martin and Martin Jacobs on location in Zimbabwe during the filming of *White Hunter, Black Heart*

be financially supported by his teacher wife (Joanne Whalley-Kilmer), he readily accepts a lucrative engagement for an illegal bare-knuckle fight. Too late he finds himself entangled in the Glasgow underworld.

Stories of a fighter exploited by big-time crime are not new. Here it is blown up into a tale of great sound and fury, borne aloft by Ennio Morricone's wildly overwrought score, performances of portentous delivery, camera angles and ensemble groupings that might come out of old German expressionist films, and inevitable intermittent recourse to slow motion.

The cracks would not be so apparent if the film were not unreasonably extended with scenes that are too long, verbose or superfluous. What ought to be a brisk thriller is slack enough to permit the mind to wander, to wonder what it is all about, and to conclude — not much.

The talking point of the film is the long and bloody fight, which is the climax of the collaborative work of Morricone, the make-up artists and the man who puts the fist-cracks on the sound track. The combat actors, Neeson and Rab Affleck, choreograph it skilfully.

Among the actors, Ian Bannen relishes the Mephistophelean Glasgow Godfather role: Billy Connolly is credible and uncharacteristic as a weak and devious clown; and the underplaying of Rab Affleck shows up the excesses of the rest.

After *Au Revoir les Enfants*, Louis Malle's *Moon in May* (15, Curzon Mayfair) is a disappointment. It is not bad, but merely unengaging.

Scripted by Jean-Claude Carrière, who wrote the scripts of Buñuel's later films, it is a comedy about how the reverberations of the student revolution of May 1968 are felt in a remote estate in the south of France. The family collect for the funeral of the old matriarch; and the action revolves

about her corpse, which lies cold and disapproving and occasionally interfered with by the cat. The family squabble over the estate, and steal what they may. Local efforts at revolution include an inconvenient gravediggers' strike. Television reports that the general has stood down send them all scurrying in panic.

There is a sense that in writing his script Carrière had in mind the mordant absurdist comedy of his old collaborator Buñuel. Malle provides something softer, in the older traditions of French rural comedy. The result is mild, no doubt more evocative for French audiences than English.

Robert Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's *Consonant Threads: Stories from the Quilt* (ICA Cinema) won the 1990 Oscar for Best Documentary. It is a remarkable demonstration of the emotional power that film can generate.

The film takes its title from an extraordinary communal commemoration, the American AIDS memorial quilt. A patchwork,

covering acres, each panel commemorates someone who has died from AIDS.

The film takes five very different individuals and celebrates their lives through photographs, home movies, interviews and memories. Living with AIDS, we realise, is a new human challenge, affecting people who are often very young, and deeply conscious of what is happening to them. Most affecting is David Mandell, an 11-year-old haemophiliac who faced death with an inspiring awareness and gallantry.

To get the most out of *House Party* (Odeon Mezzanine, Cannon Pantons Street), it is best to be around 15 years old, deep into rap, and possessed of well-fixed eardrums. The black independent film-maker Reginald Hedin developed this first feature out of his 20-minute Harvard graduation film. A black kid's comedy, it has enormous vitality and seductively funny performances by two musicians-turned-actors, Christopher Reed and Robin Harris.



Mangled tale, lacking panache: *The Guardian*, with Jenny Seagrave

Safe jokes spring few surprises

These days it is difficult to determine what Burt Reynolds' dwindling line of fans want from his movies, though the spectacle of their star shuffling through a gentle comedy with grey receding hair, thick glasses and an arthritic walk cannot loom large among their expectations. This is how Reynolds appears in *Breaking In* (15, Cannon Haymarket, Oxford Street), the latest venture from the director of *Gregory's Girl*, Bill Forsyth. His crisp performance as Ernie — an ageing safe-breaker in Portland, Oregon, who decides to pass on the tricks of his trade — is a delight, yet has clearly left fans and distributors bemused. The film spent over a year twiddling its thumbs waiting for a British release.

There is more to this than the risky business of a star abandoning a cosy stereotype. The film, for all its buoyancy and wry, comic observations, is dangerously thin in texture. The plot springs few surprises, while Forsyth seems unwilling or unable to shake off that dawdling, sidelong approach to a joke that dragged down so much of *Comfort and Joy* and threatened the equilibrium of his interesting American debut, *Housekeeping*.

There is no shortage of mordant lines (the script is by John Sayles); Forsyth's eye for the off-beat image remains as clear as ever, and Reynolds' partner, Casey Siemaszko, makes an engaging clown of a tyre-shop employee who comes to share Ernie's

secrets. Yet there comes a point when a feature-length film, however subtle and civilised, cannot continue putting along happily on amusing little jests: some tension or momentum must be generated to keep the audience in play. *Breaking In* passes that point some way before the end.

Horror films named after leading British newspapers are rare enough birds, so for novelty's sake one ought to try and welcome *The Guardian* (18, Plaza 2). Alas, it proves impossible: only a lover of the unintentionally absurd would get much pleasure from this mangled tale of a British nanny who insists on sacrificing gurgling American babies to a tree.

Jenny Seagrave portrays the wicked lady with a pleasant Eng-

lish charm that would not be out of place in a vicarage. But she never exactly sends shivers up the spine, and the parents of her unfortunate young charge are dolish young professionals lacking all flavour. It is hard to care tuppence for their predicament, even if we knew exactly what their predicament was: the script gives no explanation for Seagrave's antics, though a written prologue hints at druid worship.

The director is William Friedkin, a mercurial talent who has spent long years failing to top his two big hits of the early Seventies, *The French Connection* and *The Exorcist*. This latest effort at least returns him to the supernatural genre, but there is no trace of his old brazen panache.

TELEVISION

Home shot of Soviet history

IN THE absence of Lenin's laundry list or Stalin's complete book of Kremlin crosswords, Channel 4's *Rear Window* came up with a rare scoop, in the form of Trotsky's home movies. These belonged to, and were taken by, Alex Buckman, a young American electrician. In 1939 he was sent to install a security system for Trotsky's home in Mexico City after Stalin's hitmen sent several dozen bullets after him to Vienna.

Buckman arrived armed with nothing more dangerous than a Leica 16mm cine-camera, and shot nothing more lethal than several hundred feet of Trotsky in colour, glimpsed for the last time before his sudden and fatal encounter with an ice-pick.

The old gentleman, in fact barely 60 but prematurely aged, was seen feeding his chickens and pottering about in exile surrounded by the vestiges of his former Soviet supremacy in the shape of a couple of hideous busts. His family had already been decimated — a daughter committed suicide, two sons were killed by Stalin — but Trotsky himself is still there, wandering along the Mexican beaches like some old Hemingway fisherman, pausing to read to the camera his hopeful but impotent denunciations of yet another Stalin show trial.

In horn-rimmed spectacles and goatee beard, this, the once most powerful man in the Soviet Union, was to be found chatting to visiting American communists, popping out to buy a newspaper, or having a picnic in a nearby canyon.

Trotsky and his immediate family were seen here behaving for Buckman's camera with that curious mixture of flamboyance and embarrassment which characterises people caught in vintage home movies. The footage was stretched out by Tariq Ali, chaining to the cameraman and various survivors but the movies themselves were really all that was needed. They had the fascination of long-lost diaries and letters, and were not much improved by the title sequence of ticking clocks and ice-picks as warnings of what was to happen to the old visionary.

The films had a period intensity all their own: as Stuart Hood said in the ensuing discussion, they are the only glimpses caught of Trotsky away from the podium or the barricades. Although the studio conversation veered off into Ali's view of capitalism as the last resort of disenchanted communists, the real interest here was looking back to the Greek tragedy unfolding in 1939 Mexico. In the end, even Soviet history came down to an old man feeding chickens while awaiting sudden death.

Those who stayed with BBC 2 into the early hours of yesterday morning were treated to the unattractive sight of arts television shooting itself in the foot yet again. *Edinburgh Nights*, toward the end of what would seem to have been a below-par festival, promised a report of the weekend television conference at which there were several debates of interest, not least one concerning the dangers of fragmentation in a desperate search for ratings.

As if to establish that danger, the programme came up with a report so hopelessly fragmented, randomly interrupted, and trivial that no speaker was allowed more than about seven seconds. Few were seen or heard in correct sequence, and no argument was followed through for more time than it took an inanely cheerful Scots anchorman in dark glasses to leap back into vision with yet another purposeless link flitted for no apparent reason from a nearby pulpit. The programme itself exemplified all too clearly what happens when producers loose faith in the ability of an audience to stay with a theme or an argument for longer than it takes to flip a channel.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

CRITIC'S CHOICE: VIDEO

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

AMAZON WOMEN ON THE MOON (CIC, 18): Sketch film on Kentucky Fried Movie lines from John Landis, Joe Dante, and other comic worthies. Wildly uneven, though enough parodies on American media and popular culture hit the target. 1987.

ANNE OF THE THOUSAND DAYS (CIC, PG): Only a thousand? It feels like more, thanks to the weight of words and costumes. Richard Burton huffs and puffs as Henry VIII, for sparkle, turn to the stalwart supports, or Genevieve Bujold, plucked by producer Hal Wallis from French-Canadian obscurity. 1969.

DRUGSTORE COWBOY (18): Provocative, quirky morality play about an unrepentant junkie (Matt Dillon) who finally faces up to his life-style. Directed by Gus Van Sant with a strong feel for the underside of American society. 1989.

DRIVING MISS DAISY (Warner, U): Bruce Beresford's endearing, well-crafted film of Alfred Uhl's play about the growing relationship between a prickly Southern lady (Jessica Tandy) and her black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). 1980.

LADDER OF SWORDS (15): Attractively mounted but grating British whimsy about a down-at-heel circus artist (Martin Shaw) and his bourgeois lady love (Juliet Stevenson). Directed by Norman Hall. 1989.

MUSIC LOVERS (Warner, 18): Ken Russell's first cinema biography, overflowing with flamboyant images, neurotic passions and shabby historical data. Richard Chamberlain's composer never seems much more than Dr Kidare with a few kinks, but Glenda Jackson is on fire as his luckless wife. 1971.

BULLETS OR BALLOTS (Warner, PG): Vintage Warner Brothers crime drama with Edward G. Robinson as the cop going underground to get his man Fast and Furious: Humphrey Bogart is delicious as a racketeer's toughest sidekick. 1936.

RIO LOBO (CBS/Fox, PG): Rambling John Wayne Western, deliberately playing upon the star's advancing years. The last film of director Howard Hawks: echoes of his classic *Rio Bravo* do not work to the script's advantage, but the relaxed, breezy atmosphere is a tonic. 1970.

FOUSTABOUT (Braveworld, U): A curly Elvis Presley (John Barbara) stars in a carnival to learn about life and love. Stronger plot material than most of his Sixties vehicles, though the below-average musical numbers drag the film down. 1964.

THE THREE WORLDS OF GULLIVER (RCA/Columbia, U): Swift's satire is shrunk to Lilliputian proportions in this live-action 1969 version, and Kevin Matthews is blandness personified. Fix attention instead on Ray Harryhausen's special effects and Bernard Herrmann's inventive period score.

WELCOME HOME (Warner, 15): Hackneyed tale of a Vietnam veteran, presumed dead, returning to upset the apple cart. Decent performances (Kris Kristofferson, JoBeth Williams) and sober direction by Franklin Schaffner (his last film) provide modest pleasures. 1990.

WOMBING FREE (MIA, U): The short, fat and lumpy stars of BBC's puppet series perform engaging tracks (like parodying *The Sound of Music*), and Frances de la Tour is a delight. Pity about the weak, fragmentary plot. 1978.

Geoff Brown

New Ring leader

BAYREUTH has announced details of its new Ring cycle, to be staged in 1994. The director will be Alfred Kirchner, one of West Germany's leading theatre directors and head of the Schiller Theatre in Berlin. The new Ring will be conducted by the American, James Levine, who has done it at the Metropolitan Opera in New York and on record, but never at the home of Wagner opera itself. The current Ring, produced by Harry Kupfer, is in its third year of performance.

Patrice Chéreau — who gave Bayreuth its most debated Ring in modern times — has withdrawn from directing *Tristan and Isolde* at Bayreuth in 1993, apparently because of a bereavement. His surprising replacement is Heiner Müller, an East German playwright who has never directed opera before. The designer will be Erich Wonder, responsible for the much-discussed Ring cycle in Munich.

Open house

GLASGOW is opening the doors of its architectural treasures for Europe this Saturday, as the first British city to join 15 others in Europe as part of European Heritage Day. Some of the 40 buildings, usually have their doors closed to the public, while others

BRIEFING

have waived the normal entrance fees. Buildings on display include Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Glasgow School of Art, James Miller's Bank of Scotland, Robert Adam's Trades Hall, Alexander Thomson's St. Vincent Street Church, Scottish Life's art deco director's suite, Giles Gilbert Scott's St. Mary's Cathedral (currently being restored), and the 1870s Venetian-style private Western Baths club.

Best of friends

TO THE untrained eye, Steven Spielberg and Martin Scorsese might seem to have little in common beyond their beards. But despite the chasm between *E.T.* and *African Streets*, the two are good friends, and now collaborators. The directors have formed a joint venture to be based in Robert De Niro's Tribeca Film Centre, in downtown Manhattan.

The new company is called Red Shoes after the 1948 Powell and Pressburger classic, a film and a creative team which both directors admire. While no formal announcement has been made, and neither the name nor the company has yet been incorporated, the plan is that Red Shoes will be devoted to developing smaller budget films on which new writers and directors can cut their teeth.

Hall for Cornwall?

CAMPAIGNERS in Cornwall are launching an appeal for £6.6 million to transform the dilapi-

dated City Hall in Truro into a performance centre. If they are successful in raising the sum from the public and private sectors, refurbishment of the interior, while maintaining the frontage will take three years to complete. Plans for the so-called Hall for Cornwall would see it become a versatile venue that could accommodate the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, large-scale touring opera, dance and drama, as well as sporting events and trade shows. First, however, the City Hall's leaking roof, peeling paint and dreadful acoustics will have to be overcome.

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ONS 3.25-3.55
and Away

U.S. AIR FORCE
 Concept: 10.35pm Folio 11.05
 11th European Airman's Chem-
 ical Film Turn the Key Softly
 for 3.40 Santa Barbara 4.40
 5.00 On

00 Blockbuster
12.35 PM
View 2.50
File Room

WORKSHIRE
As London escape: 5.10
Away 8.00 Calendar 6.3
ers 7.30-8.00 Watching
Songs the Blues 2.20
America's Top Ten 3.05
3.35 Music Box 4.35-5.0

Newydon

2.50-5.15 *Crown Green*
0.00 *Grandma Tootin' 730-00*
0.00-5.35 *Games 11:30-00*
0.00 *American Athletic Championships*
0.00 *Frugal in the Night 2:20*
0.00 *America's Top Ten 3:00-00*
0.00 *Parade Stranger*

3:00pm-2:20 The Scoop
3:30pm-1:15 *New News 3:25-4:00pm* *MTV News 3:25-4:00pm* *5-10-6-0-0 Home*
0.00 *MTV News 6:30-7:00*
3:00-6:00 *Problems 10:30*
The West Tootin' 11:00
0.00 *11:35 KVN*
0.00 *Compendium 12:30am Film*
3:35 *Quiz Night 3:05-5:00*
The Spanish Connection
0.00 *Games 4:50-5:00* *Jeopardy*
0.00

4:00pm-5:30pm *Weekend Extravaganza & Adventure*
0.00 *Extravaganza 11:05-11:35* *The Real*

5:30pm-3:50 Home and Take the High Road 0:00
0.00-7:00 *Blockbusters*
11:00pm *Murdered with the Filthy Fear in the Night*
0.00 *America's Top Ten*
0.00 *Parade Stranger*

1:50pm-2:20 The 25-35-35 *Sons and Daughters*
0.00 *MTV News 11:00-11:30*
0.00 *Coast to Coast 3:30-6:00* *Waiting*
0.00 *Musical Meats*
0.00 *Back 11:30-12:00am*
0.00 *The Accomplice*
0.00 *Sports Weekend 3:40-5:00* *Fifty Years On*

1:50-2:20 *News 2:20*

Old and the
Green

SPORTS CHANNEL

A 1:30 Racing Today 2:00
Today's Sports Today 2:30
E 6:00 SportsWeek 8:30
7:00 Sports World 7:30
U.S. Open Tennis 10:00
20 Sportsdesk 11:00 On
Team Sportsdesk 12:30am

SHOW

100 American Business Horsey
Business Horsey
1:00 Living Now 1:30
2:00 Go for Green 2:30
3:00 The 40's
Countrywide Show 5:00
Gardener's World 6:30
100's Smth Show 7:00
10:00 Your World 10:00
Today 10:30 Living Now
Business Today

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Government's big rises for broadcast chiefs under attack

By TIM JONES AND JOHN LEWIS

THE government was last night condemned for awarding pay rises of 27 per cent to BBC governors, members of the Independent Broadcasting Authority and to members of the shadow Independent Television Commission and the shadow Radio Authority.

Under the award, announced yesterday, Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC governors and George Russell, chairman of the IBA and chairman elect of the ITC will have their salaries raised immediately from £39,200, for a four-day week, to £49,865 and to £50,365 on January 1 next year.

Lord Chalfont, chairman of the Radio Authority, will receive the same rate, but scaled down as he

works a three-day week. The TUC attacked the rises last night as "another example of one law for the rich and another for the poor". A spokesman added: "It is unacceptable for ministers to be urging pay restraint on ordinary people while giving huge increases to top earners. This is just another example of how government policy is fuelling inflation."

Robin Corbett, Labour's broadcasting spokesman, also attacked the awards as "highly inflationary and totally unjustified".

David Waddington, the Home Secretary, who announced the awards, is understood to have thought hard before approving the scale of the rises because of the anti-inflationary emphasis of government policy at a time when workers are being warned that big pay increases will cost jobs.

He decided, however, that with the start of a new, more competitive broadcasting world, higher salaries were justified.

He said the Top Salaries Review Body had recommended increases of six per cent from April 1990 and another one per cent from January 1991 for six bodies: the BBC, IBA, the ITC, the shadow Radio Authority, the Cable Authority, the Welsh Fourth Channel Authority, the Broadcasting Complaints Commission and the Broadcasting Standards Council under the chairmanship of Lord Rees-Mogg, whose salary will increase to £33,725 next year from £31,500.

He said the additional 20 per cent rises reflected the weight of responsibility attached to the appointments and would bring them more into line with the salaries awarded to other public bodies with equivalent responsibilities.

The Home Office said yesterday that the chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service and the Health and Safety Commission received salaries of £72,000 a year.

The awards come as unions at the BBC are preparing to fight against scores of job losses as the organisation prepares to put out work to private tender and at a time when ITN journalists are threatening 24-hour stoppages following the rejection of a 6 per cent pay offer.

Earlier this month, the BBC's 26,000 employees were awarded a 9.4 per cent pay rise.

Donald Allen, a deputy parliamentary commissioner for Administration for eight years and a former diplomat, has been appointed to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, which adjudicates on complaints of unfair treatment and infringements of privacy in the making of television programmes.



Yawning glory: Robyn Parker, aged 3, finds being crowned Miss Pears 1990 in London yesterday a bit tiresome. Robyn, from Epsom, Surrey, was chosen from 22,000 hopefuls

Soviet rivals unite over economy

From MARY DEFEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE two Titans of Soviet politics, President Gorbachev, and Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, agreed yesterday that "drastic measures" were needed to deal with the ailing Soviet economy and said that an economic agreement was urgently needed to unite the Soviet Union's 15 republics and establish a single market.

The two leaders met for six hours in the Kremlin to discuss the state of the country and sort out their differences before a meeting of central and republic leaders today which may approve emergency economic measures.

A statement said they were worried about living conditions and the state of the economy and "agreed that the problems demand the consolidation of all forces and drastic measures". Their meeting took place against a background of worsening shortages and a record harvest, much of which is rotting before it reaches barns.

In an unprecedented joint television interview, Mr Gorbachev condemned "nihilism towards the law" and said "very profound decisions" could not be postponed. "The time limit is upon us," he said. "The time limit is upon us," he said. "The time limit is upon us," he said.

Vitali Ignatenko, Mr Gorbachev's spokesman, said: "Our leadership has a single desire to stabilise the situation, to use its political authority to protect the new economic policy, the new union and perestroika."

Threat fades, page 9

Cambodian rebels back UN peace proposals

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN NEW YORK

THE Cambodian resistance, including the Khmer Rouge, yesterday announced it had accepted a plan for the United Nations to govern Cambodia until a new government can be elected.

The five permanent members of the security council worked out the plan on Tuesday. Vietnam and the Cambodian government it installed after it invaded in 1978 have yet to reply to the proposals, which call for the UN to "supervise and control... if necessary" five key Cambodian ministries: defence, foreign affairs, finance, public security and information.

It would be an "unprecedented" UN operation to solve a regional conflict, an American diplomat said. It would cost up to \$5 billion (£2.6 billion) over one or two years and involve as many as 10,000 peacekeeping troops and 10,000 civilian personnel.

"Now it is up to the four Cambodian parties," said the diplomat. "The question is, can they agree?" American officials will meet Vietnamese diplomats tomorrow to try to persuade Hanoi to get the Cambodian government to accept the proposals.

Kinnock requests recall of Parliament

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

PARLIAMENT is expected to meet for a two-day debate on the Gulf late next week or early the week after, after a request for a recall from Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Kinnock wrote to the Prime Minister yesterday saying that now was the appropriate time for MPs to discuss the situation in the Gulf, especially the safety of hostages and the security of diplomatic staff. He told journalists at Westminster that he did not want to see the situation go too far into its second month without a recall. However, he promised "no comfort" for Saddam Hussein in what he emphasised would be a rational and supportive debate.

Conservative MPs are supporting the recall request as the American build-up reaches the point where offensive action becomes a possibility. Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, who has to agree with the government on a recall, is understood to favour the return of MPs for a two-day debate.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, leaves today for a six-day tour of the Gulf and Mr Kinnock said that it would be sensible for MPs to meet when Mr Hurd was in a position to report back. Mrs Thatcher will reply to his letter on her return from Finland today.

Mr Kinnock emphasised that he was not seeking a recall to criticise the government's action, saying

that a Labour government would have done just what the government has done. He had not been given any assurance about a recall and was not pressing for a particular date but he did not find ministers resistant to the idea. He predicted an impressive degree of consensus between the parties on action in the Gulf.

Mr Kinnock said that the diplomatic pressures and the economic sanctions being imposed on Iraq could not be effective without the willingness to use force in defence of Saudi Arabia. Labour would continue to press for "maximum possible intensity" in pursuit of a peaceful outcome but there could be no compromise on the demands for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the release of all hostages. He said, however, that Western objectives should not include at this stage the toppling of Saddam Hussein.

Mr Kinnock said that if Parliament had been recalled at the outset of the Gulf affair it might have conveyed the wrong message to Saddam Hussein that the House of Commons was disconcerted.

There might, however, be a problem for the party leaders if Parliament is recalled too quickly. At present, sections of both front benches are away from Westminster for refurbishment.

Gulf debate, page 10

Airlines standing by for exodus from Iraq

Continued from page 1

behaviour. "He is beginning to recognise things he should not have done. The women and children should never have been held, nor indeed should the men."

The prime minister, who said the option of military force had not been ruled out, repeatedly emphasised that the world was relying on the UN's resolutions and the rigorous enforcement of sanctions to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. They might take time to work, and the policy would be reviewed from time to time. Turkey yesterday rejected an Iraqi request for medicines and food, saying it would honour the UN sanctions.

Mrs Thatcher said she would consult cabinet colleagues before answering Neil Kinnock's request for a recall of Parliament and a two-day debate on the Gulf is likely to be held within the next two weeks.

The meeting today in Amman between Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, and the Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, would not be a negotiating session, she said. There was no need for a mediator in the Gulf as the policy agreed by the UN Security Council was clear.

Iraq was equally insistent that today's meeting with the UN secretary-general would not involve discussions about Kuwait. The minister of information, Latif

Nasrullah Jassem, said in an interview with *The Times*: "There can be no negotiations at all about Kuwait and its fate. Historically, it is Iraqi and the al-Sabah family has gone to hell. The subject is closed." He said the talks would be about the Gulf crisis in general and the American presence there.

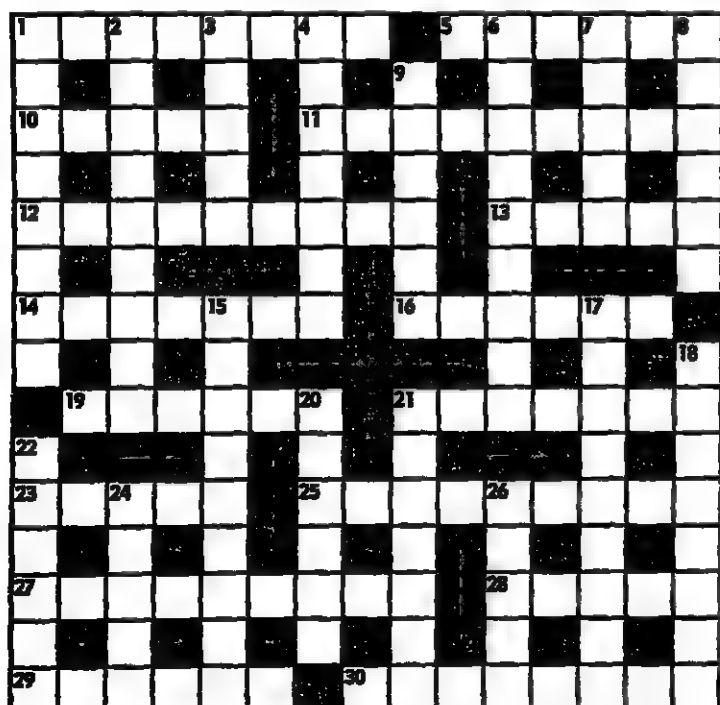
An American transport plane involved in the Gulf build-up crashed at an air base in West Germany, killing 13 of the 17 people on board. It was the worst accident of the troop deployment.

Meanwhile, the European Community indicated that it might limit the movements of Iraqi diplomats in its 12 member states in retaliation for the threat to close embassies in Kuwait. A statement was expected by the weekend, but many members were against following the American example of expelling diplomats for fear that it might provoke Baghdad into taking further action against Europeans.

France yesterday placed 26 Iraqis under house arrest. Those detained were military personnel and people with access to defence secrets.

While relations with Iraq continued to cool, Britain has begun face-to-face talks with Iran on the resumption of diplomatic relations after months of talks about talks. Ties were broken in March 1989 in protest over the death sentence imposed on the author Salman Rushdie.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,386



- ACROSS**
- 1 Bigwig abandons a follower in haste (8).
 - 5 Seafood starters of sole, crab and mussel, price inclusive (6).
 - 10 Tries to get to sleep but on these it's joy! (3).
 - 11 Suffered without let-up (9).
 - 12 Numb as with intense movement (9).
 - 13 Lover depicted by Bard embracing Imogen initially (5).
 - 14 Catch sight of proceeds irregularly accepted in notes (7).
 - 16 Clarify river to accommodate fish (6).
 - 19 As long as there is money in cards? (6).
 - 21 Casualty needs to come down by rope (4,3).
 - 23 Calculators providing heads to columns (5).
 - 25 Sings about America in merry parties (9).
- DOWN**
- 1 Vehicle bearing (8).
 - 2 Eros ridiculed this security man, proverbially (9).
 - 3 Transgress again, by gum! (5).
 - 4 Having will to remove capital holdings (7).
 - 6 Kind of music produced by leading group with mid-scale accompaniment (9).
 - 7 Unexpected gift from German Navy (5).
 - 8 Impact of bitter when propping up bailing order (6).
 - 9 Large nurse in Belgium (6).
 - 15 Relish acceptance of up coming up in flutter (9).
 - 17 Lowering by digger and demolition (9).
 - 18 Perception shown by rowers securing approval (8).
 - 20 Move start of play in court upset (6).
 - 21 Surrender offer - it's disastrous (7).
 - 22 Two little nursery characters brought up by bird (6).
 - 24 She's sainted - times without number (5).
 - 26 Rumba dancing in shadow (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,385

STALWART STRUCK
H P E U B R S E
R O O M T E M P E R A T U R E
I C S B H D H P
F O R M U L A O N E E V E R
T Y I L I E R O
S P I T H E A D N O H W
I H X E O N
M E A N S P I N A F O R E
P A L I G C A L D E R A
R E A L I G C A L D E R A
P A R T H E N O G E N E S
E O E T A G E
R E W A R D P R E S A G E

- WORD-WATCHING**
- A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
- By Philip Howard
- BANKING**
- a. The field at marbles
 - b. A tree-shrub
 - c. A Burmese ankle bracelet
- ZYNOME**
- a. A constituent of phosine
 - b. A pronounial link
 - c. The Albanian short kilt
- RHABDOPHYL**
- a. A stick collector
 - b. A caning masochist
 - c. A lover of radishes
- MESSAN**
- a. The corn harvest
 - b. A Cambodian pagoda
 - c. A lap-dog
- Answers on page 18

WEATHER

Cloud over the east of England will move away into the North Sea. Central areas will start dry and bright with sunny periods in many places but will become more cloudy. Northern and western areas will have showers which may be heavy at times and merge into longer periods of rain. It will be cooler than of late. Outlook: continuing showery in the north and west but becoming dry in many other areas.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	27	SE	1	clear
Algeria	27	SE	1	clear
Algeria	27	SE	1	clear
Algeria	27	SE	1	clear
Algeria	27	SE	1	clear
Algeria	27	SE	1	clear
Algeria	27	SE	1	clear
Algeria	27	SE	1	clear
Algeria	27	SE	1	clear
Algeria	27	SE	1	clear

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	27	SE	1	clear
London	27	SE	1	clear
London	27	SE	1	clear
London	27	SE	1	clear
London	27	SE	1	clear
London	27	SE	1	clear
London	27	SE	1	clear
London	27	SE	1	clear
London	27	SE	1	clear
London	27	SE	1	clear

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London: 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex: 702
Dorset, Dorset & IOW: 703
Devon & Cornwall: 704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset: 705
Berkshire, Oxford: 706
Bedfordshire & Essex: 707
Northampton, Cambridgeshire: 708
West Midlands & Shropshire: 709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester: 710
Central Midlands: 711
East Midlands: 712
Lincolnshire & Humberside: 713
Derbyshire & Yorkshire: 714
Gwynedd & Cymru: 715
N.W. England: 716
W. & S. Yorkshire & Wales: 717
N.E. England: 718
Cumbria & Lake District: 719
S.W. Scotland: 720
W. Central Scotland: 721
Edinburgh & Borders: 722
E. Central Scotland: 723
Glasgow & E. Highlands: 724
N.W. Scotland: 725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland: 726
N. Ireland: 727

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 26m to 30m, 28C (82F); min 16m to 20m, 18C (64F). Wind: SE 10-15 mph. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 10.8 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 1010.5 mbars, steady.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Today: Highest day temp: Oxford, 28C (82F); lowest day temp: Far Isle, Shetland, 15C (59F). Highest night temp: Bournemouth, 18C (64F). Lowest night temp: Far Isle, Shetland, 10C (50F). Wind: SE 10-15 mph. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 10.8 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 26m to 30m, 28C (82F); min 16m to 20m, 18C (64F). Wind: SE 10-15 mph. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 10.8 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 26m to 30m, 28C (82F); min 16m to 20m, 18C (64F). Wind: SE 10-15 mph. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 10.8 hr.

[illegible]



EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

KEY SENIOR LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES IN A NEW COMPANY START-UP

OMV (UK) LIMITED, the UK affiliate of the Austrian oil, gas and petrochemical company OMV AG, is committed to building a balanced portfolio of licensed interests in the UK Sector through a combination of acquisitions, farm-ins and Licensing Round applications. Success in the 10th and 11th Offshore Rounds together with the recent acquisition of substantial producing interests firmly positions the company for continued expansion and an exciting future.

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Using projections of the price of electricity you will assist in deriving forecast purchase costs. You will be a clear thinker able to identify the heart of a problem and capable of creating the models needed to assist further analysis. The work provides a most stimulating intellectual challenge and will require a blend of insight and determination to accomplish it successfully. The successful candidate will probably have a good degree in a numerate discipline and be keen to find a practical application for their capabilities.

Excellent conditions of service including pension scheme; minimum of 25 days holiday plus 8 days public and other holidays; staff privilege arrangements on electrical appliances from our shops; staff restaurant and an active Sports and Social Club.

Interested? Please send a current CV stating present position and salary to: Toris Bennett quoting 56/90 at Southern Electric plc, Littlewick Green, Nr Maidenhead, Berks SL6 3QB. Should you require further information please telephone Dr Brian Smith, Generation & Systems Studies Manager on 0628 584538.



Managing Director

MEMBRANE TOUCH PANELS & SCREENS

££40k+

Backed by one of the UK's largest public electronics groups, our client manufactures a range of products including touch panels and screens.

The company is a 'niche' market supplier and requires a Managing Director capable of understanding small batch manufacture who is used to working in a closely knit environment.

Qualified to degree level, the successful candidate will have a hands-on approach and will have the enthusiasm and drive to develop new markets for touch panels and screens.

The salary/remuneration package will be excellent for the right individual.

Contact JULIA HEWETT on 0582 450054 - 24 hours quoting reference WP/JH



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BOC

PROPERTY BUSINESS GENERAL MANAGER

Salary: c.£40,000 plus car

The Dover Harbour Board is the world's busiest international ferry port. It handles over 15,000,000 passengers a year and nearly 25% of the UK's seaborne trade.

As part of its preparations for the arrival of the Channel tunnel the port is looking to manage its non-operational property portfolio more actively and, within existing powers, to find profitable uses for its surplus assets - particularly of land.

The Board is looking for an individual to realise the considerable potential of these assets. The successful applicant will probably be aged about 40 years with a degree or equivalent professional qualification in real estate / property finance. He or she will also have a substantial record of achievement in buying, selling and developing real estate and will be able to demonstrate a good knowledge of planning procedures. The Property General Manager will be a member of a small and committed team with considerable freedom of action within agreed targets.

Please write with full curriculum vitae and quoting current salary details to the Personnel Manager

DOVER
HARBOUR BOARD

HARBOUR HOUSE · DOVER · KENT CT17 9BU

Sales Director high integrity capital machinery

for NEI Parsons, a Rolls Royce company and world leader in the design, manufacture and installation of £multi-million mechanical/electrical engineering projects related mainly to all types of power generation. The company is very actively exploiting the growing world market for gas powered turbine generators. The Sales

Director will lead a small specialist team and be closely involved with the sales team internationally from inquiry to successful contract negotiation. This senior position calls for a chartered mechanical or electrical engineer with a proven sales and marketing career in major engineering groups, especially power related. Competitive salary plus normal major group benefits and cost of relocation to the Newcastle area. Please write, in confidence, with full career details to: A.W.B. Thomson, Selection Thomson Ltd., 24-25 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HD or 14 Sandyford Place, Glasgow G3 7NB.

Selection Thomson
London and Glasgow



Lucas Aerospace Engineering & Heating Systems Division

Sales & Marketing Manager

With General
Management Potential
Northern Home
Counties,

c £25,000, Car, Benefits

Hoggett Bowers

BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE, CARDIFF, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, LEEDS, LONDON, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, NOTTINGHAM, ST ALBANS, SHEFFIELD, WINSON and EUROPE

This autonomous £20m turnover company within the Lucas Group is among the market leaders in the design, development and manufacture of flight deck windows, advanced ice protection equipment and instrument lighting systems for military and civil aircraft.

An outstanding opportunity has arisen to develop structured strategic market plans in order to manage, not only existing customers requirements but also develop new markets for expansion, obtaining market intelligence data and translating this into practical proposals in order to secure new business worldwide.

Aged 28 plus, the successful candidate will possess a business or technology-based first degree with a marketing bias. A sound record of achievement in managing a sales and marketing function, within a high technology environment is also looked for, together with first class interpersonal skills and qualities of strong leadership combined with commercial acumen.

Excellent career prospects are on offer, plus a wide range of large company benefits and full relocation package.

Male or female candidates should submit in confidence a comprehensive c.v. or telephone for a Personal History Form to: A.J. Felstead, Hoggett Bowers plc, 34 St. Peter's Street, ST. ALBANS, AL1 3NA, 0727-45677, Fax: 0727-48775, quoting Ref T12003/ST.

Commercial Director Interior Design and Construction

c. £40,000 + Bonus

East Midlands

Profit-oriented professional to take responsibility for all project management for this rapidly growing design, manufacturing and construction company.

THE COMPANY

- Market leaders in interior design and construction for blue chip retail, commercial and financial groups.
- £20 million turnover subsidiary of well established plc, 400 staff. Extensive recent investment in design and production facilities.
- Strongly focused on further growth, diversifying into challenging new business areas.

THE POSITION

- Broad remit with total responsibility for project management, overseeing all contracts from concept to completion.
- Key task in building well qualified project management teams to take responsibility for individual contracts.

- Reporting to Managing Director. Important liaison role with two subsidiary operations.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Age 38-50, ten years experience of project and contract management in design and construction. Ideally qualified Quantity Surveyor.
- Good knowledge of estimating procedures, contract law and conditions of contract. Proven track record in managing major contracts.
- Highly profit oriented with outstanding management skills; aptitude for forward planning.

Please write, enclosing full cv, Ref G13358
78 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5UB

S N

GLASGOW - 041-204 4334
LONDON - 01-493 6392 - SLOUGH - 0753-69484 - BIRMINGHAM - 021-233 4656
MANCHESTER - 0625 539953 - BRISTOL - 0272 306639 - HONG KONG - (HK) 217133

International Sales Manager UNISYS Mainframe Storage Systems

£65,000 OTE + Benefits

Thames Valley

Exponential growth, highly innovative products and truly international markets make this a most challenging and rewarding opportunity in computer product sales for the Unisys environment.

THE COMPANY

- Rapidly expanding, California based. Designs, develops and manufactures solid state memory and storage systems for mainframe computers.
- Worldwide operation. \$35m turnover. Poised for rapid expansion following recent strategic marketing agreement with Unisys.
- OEM and end-user channels. High ticket, concept sales.

THE POSITION

- Develop new, end-user sales in UK, Scandinavia and the Netherlands. Optimise existing accounts.

- Manage co-operative marketing initiatives with Unisys. Explore product/market diversifications.
- Key role potentially leading to broader European or U.S. based opportunities.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Proven business development experience in high ticket, mainframe computer products.
- Knowledge of Unisys mainframe systems. Ability to maximise new product/market opportunities.
- Confident, self-starter with drive and initiative.

Please write, enclosing full cv, Ref SJ3461
Orion House, Grays Place, Slough, SL2 5AF

N-B
S ELECTION
LTD

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Hoggett Bowers

Commercial Manager

Marketing/New Business Development
Food Processing
East Midlands

c. £35,000, Bonus, Car

This highly successful £50m plus turnover subsidiary of a major plc is committed to a strategy of consistent annual growth. It is to this end that the company is seeking to appoint a top quality marketing professional to take charge of a department providing a comprehensive, central commercial support service to its regional trading units. This will include advertising, PR, promotional material, special events, exhibitions, market research and analysis. The commercial manager will have a significant input into the strategic development of the company through the identification of new market sectors and geographical trading areas. The targeted growth percentage will likely be achieved through the natural extension of current services into complementary activity and/or acquisition. Working closely with the regional directors and reporting directly to the managing director the commercial manager will be expected to identify new opportunities, originate a proposal, provide a coherent business rationale and once commitment has been gained, effectively implement that strategy. The ideal candidate will have successfully run a marketing department, be commercially tough, articulate, perhaps an MBA with experience of strategic planning and new business development, creative but with a disciplined approach to market analysis. The position offers a high basic salary plus bonus potential, an attractive benefits package and significant career development prospects to the high performer.

N.A. Holmes, Hoggett Bowers plc, Bank House, 100 Queen Street,
SHEFFIELD, S1 2DW, 0742-731241, Fax: 0742-731331. Ref: S18037/ST.

Operations Director

Fire Protection Systems
North West

c. £28,000, Car, Benefits

A multi million pound turnover rapidly expanding company, seeks an experienced operations director to develop its design and installation business in fire protection systems. The company provides turn-key solutions for sprinklers, water spray, foam and gas systems, including special hazard situations. The appointee will be profit responsible for the operation of the business and will implement and monitor high standards of quality to BS5750, safety and customer service. Candidates, aged 35-45, should have a technical or engineering background and must have had at least 5 years in managing operations in a major fire systems contractor. A dynamic individual is required with the ability to deal with 'on site' situations and the skills to motivate a multi-discipline team. Career prospects are excellent, including potential equity participation, and there is a relocation package.

R.A. Flude, Hoggett Bowers plc, St James's Court, 30 Brown Street,
MANCHESTER, M2 2JF, 061-832 3500, Fax: 061-834 8577. Ref: M15083/ST.

These positions are open to male or female candidates. Please send cv or telephone for a Personal History Form to the relevant office, quoting the appropriate reference.

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AST
COMPUTERS

AST COMPUTERS

AST Europe is the European Headquarters of American based AST Research Inc., a leading manufacturer of high performance, high quality computers and PC enhancement products.

In Europe there are subsidiary companies in the UK, France, Italy, Germany and Switzerland with distributors in over 35 countries. Employing more than 2200 staff world-wide, AST is currently reporting record sales and profitability. We are now looking to strengthen our success orientated team by appointing additional dedicated professionals in the following posts.

Assistant To the Director of European Operations

c. £25K + Car + Bonus + Benefits

Working for the Director of European Operations you will be closely involved in all aspects of his areas of responsibility. These currently include the management of the UK and German subsidiaries, distributor operations and OEM.

The diversity of these responsibilities calls for an assistant capable of handling a wide variety of day to day matters as well as being able to respond to the pressures of high level projects.

The successful candidate, preferably educated to degree level, will need to demonstrate a successful career record, possibly with multinational corporate experience, and possess a dynamic self-motivated personality.

OEM Sales Manager - Europe

c. £40K OTE + Car + Bonus + Benefits

A significant part of the success of AST has been in OEM sales. Several renowned computer companies have their products built for them by AST.

To build on this success we are now looking to appoint a European OEM Sales Manager. The primary responsibility will be to develop new business in Europe as well as grow sales within the existing customer base.

This position will require extensive travel within Europe as well as regular contact with our parent company in California.

Sales Manager - Eastern Europe

c. £35K OTE + Car + Bonus + Benefits

This is a key role within the European Operations Group, with responsibility for developing sales within the Eastern European region. You will be responsible for establishing a customer base, working closely with them on sales in their own countries. Apart from the primary sales role you will also ensure that all marketing and support activities are properly co-ordinated.

A successful sales record within the computer industry is essential. Experience of doing business in Eastern European countries is also a pre-requisite.

AST is currently one of the most stable and successful PC vendors in the world. Our growth plans throughout Europe, and our commitment to bringing the very latest technology to market, mean that the successful candidates are assured of an exciting future. For an initial and confidential discussion regarding these appointments, which all carry competitive salaries, a company performance bonus, personal pension plan and private health care, please call Amanda Opperman on 081 568 4350, or write to her in strict confidence enclosing a full CV at: AST House, 2 Goat Wharf, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 0BA.

GENERAL MANAGER ANALYTICAL INSTRUMENTATION

c. £40,000 p.a. + car

The success of our client company is attributed to a combination of the enthusiasm, drive and skills of its personnel, and products which are identifiable by their technical excellence. At the forefront of technology, their name is internationally renowned and their products are the established leaders in many markets.

We seek an enthusiastic young manager to head up a subsidiary and to lead it into the challenges of the next decade. Leadership skills, strong technical skills and the commercial experience necessary to fulfil this key role should be self evident.

Candidates should ideally have a strong technical background in a sophisticated product environment and a Ph.D or a good degree in a scientific discipline, preferably Physics, Physical Chemistry, or Chemistry. Career to date will probably have included product development, and/or sales and marketing experience. Experience of international markets will be advantageous.

If you believe your career to date has equipped you to succeed in this demanding role, please write initially in confidence.

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9 Cork Street, Mayfair, London W1X 1PD

MERIDIAN CENTRE 20 George Street Alderley Edge (Cheshire SK9 7J) Phone (0625) 488800

Distributor Management - International Opportunities

Grove Europe based in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear is a successful division of a major International group. A recent history of profitability, growth, capital expenditure and new development has seen them expanding the product range from their successful core business of crane manufacture. A number of opportunities are now available for dynamic career orientated export sales or marketing professionals with direct experience of Distributor Management.



GENERAL SALES MANAGER
Truck Mounted Hydraulic Cranes
Grove already have a very successful history of manufacture and sales of knuckle boom and straight boom cranes into the USA market. A General Sales Manager is now required to pioneer the launch of this product into Europe. A senior management position reporting to the Sales and Marketing Director you would be responsible for developing the marketing of the product, appointment of distributors, direct liaison with customers and the selection and recruitment of your own team of personnel. Ideally you will be aged 30 plus with a proven track record in the truck mounted hydraulic crane environment either for a manufacturer or hire company. A knowledge of the European marketplace and a European language would be advantageous.

DISTRICT MANAGER - Cranes
1. Northern Europe 2. Middle East
Grove are looking for two District Managers to be responsible for Northern Europe and the Middle East respectively. Your primary role would be to increase market share in established territories by implementing professional business practices and good distributor management. Aged 28-35 you will ideally be educated to Degree level and be able to demonstrate genuine International experience in a marketing or sales role involving Distributor management. A second language capability is desirable.

All positions offer extremely good basic salaries linked to a very competitive and generous profit scheme and major company benefits. Career prospects are excellent and the location offers an excellent quality of life being close to the historic, picturesque Durham City, the spectacular Northumberland coastline and the tranquil North Yorkshire dales and moors.

To apply please write enclosing a comprehensive C.V. to Mr J Rochester, Personnel Manager, Grove Europe, Palford, Sunderland Tyne & Wear SR4 6TT.

DISTRICT MANAGER - Access Platforms
1. Central Europe 2. Southern Europe
A very similar role to that of District Manager - Cranes, you would however be pioneering a new product area and would therefore be deeply involved working with distributors and customers and selling the concept of a revolutionary product. A European language either French, German, Spanish or Italian would be advantageous in order to perform the role effectively.

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You will need to be able to respond intellectually and practically to an exacting workload. You should have the ability to define problems rigorously, and produce innovative, yet commercially sound solutions. Since you will be working closely with our blue-chip clients, you should also have effective communications skills and the presence to carry your project through.

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Please send a comprehensive cv including salary history and daytime telephone number to:

Frances McNulty,
quoting reference 3158,
Touche Ross Management Consultants,
5th Floor, 52-54 High Holborn,
London WC1V 6RL.
Telephone: 071-353 7361.

**Touche
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EUROPEAN OPERATIONS MANAGER - TECHNICAL SERVICES

A rapidly expanding, technically creative and innovative International organisation is looking for an experienced professional manager to head up the Technical Operations of the European Division. Dendrite International markets sophisticated Electronic Sales Force Automation Systems to International pharmaceutical organisations and is a world leader in this field.

The successful applicant will have the following responsibilities:

- * Functional management of European technical and service staff
- * Budgetary control for European technical and service resources
- * Control over the implementation of technical direction of Dendrite Europe
- * Planning for and provision of trained technical and service staff for European projects
- * Control of operating standards for European technical staff
- * Technical support of the sales team working with senior management of European pharmaceutical organisations

The position requires a progressive individual who exhibits a high degree of professionalism, has had several years experience managing large groups of technical service resource and is conversant with the leading edge of PC technology, UNIX operating systems, asynchronous communications and relational database technology.

An attractive salary, excellent employee benefits package, International travel and outstanding career growth potential accompany this position. Please send your resume to:

Mrs Shirley Openshaw
Dendrite Europe Ltd
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Beaumont Plaza
Gillette Way
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NEC Corporation is a world leader in the electronics industry, developing, manufacturing and marketing advanced computer and communications equipment. To support our expansion into the European market and optimise our developments, we are now seeking talented individuals who will be excited by our future product development and are keen to advance their technical professionalism and career in a world class company. Travelling regularly to Europe and Japan, you will attend technical standards meetings and product discussions and hence gain a global view of the industry.

International Standards Specialist
To £30,000

You will be familiar with higher levels of OSI 7 layer architecture particularly in the areas of ODA, EDI, MHS, EM etc. with a wide appreciation of related technology.

Consultant - Terminal Standards
To £25,000

You will be familiar with ISDN terminal technology for voice data and images.

Graduate Engineer - 2 years + experience
To £20,000

You will have a good degree in electronic engineering or related technology.

Key attributes are a strong interest in product development, coupled with a well developed commercial awareness and good interpersonal skills. Extensive on-going training is available to broaden existing expertise.

In the first instance please send a detailed c.v. outlining your experience, qualifications and current salary to John MacNiven, Personnel Operations Manager, NEC (UK) Ltd., NEC House, 1 Victoria Road, London W3 6UL or telephone for an application form using our 24 hour answerphone on 081-992 0083.

C&C Computers and Communications

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Finance Director

£35,000 + Executive Car + Benefits + Bristol

The Burns Anderson Independent Network plc is a nationwide network dedicated to offering the highest standards of financial advice. Fast moving and dynamic, we have achieved exceptional growth.

As a member of the senior management team the role of Finance Director is crucial. You'll carry specific responsibility for all financial aspects of the business in addition to developing strong working relationships with Network Members.

In order to meet this challenge you will be a fully qualified accountant and have senior level experience gained in a forward thinking and progressive environment. Strong interpersonal and negotiating skills and the ability to maintain tight controls are of paramount importance.

The Network is at an exciting stage of its development and will allow you to participate in its future prosperity.

For further details please contact or write to Jennifer Neary enclosing full CV with daytime telephone number at:

Robert Armstrong & Company

8th Floor, Phoenix House, Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 3NH.
Telephone: 021-233 4588. Fax: 021-233 4954.

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North West London

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The Company currently operates a chain of Estate Agencies with associated Lettings, Management and Financial Services Divisions. The offices are located throughout the South of England.

PPI are seeking a Senior Manager to effectively develop their North London Region (which currently includes 4 offices) by introducing a new trading concept for the Company.

He/she will report directly to the Sales Director and will be fully profit responsible.

The ideal candidate will be over 27, energetic and confident, with 5 years' experience in sales management, preferably in financial services, estate agency or related fields, although this is not essential. He/she must be able to develop and motivate staff, earn respect from colleagues and administer number of geographically spread business locations.

For further details and application form please write to:

Ms M. Julian
Personnel Department
Property and Personal Investment Ltd
Cavendish House
40 Goldsmith Road
Woking
Surrey
GU21 1JT

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Superb opportunity presents itself to build a career with a major UK publishing company representing a high profile business to business publication to industry clients and advertising agencies. Highly regarded in their field, this well known organisation requires an executive to sell and negotiate scheduled business at senior level.

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Are you energetic, persuasive and ambitious? Have 6 months experience and a good standard of education? If so our client needs you to be part of their expansion plans in the graduate recruitment market. If you are free to start in the next 3 weeks even better. Basic Salary £11,000 (review Dec 90) no ceiling on commission.

If you would like to discuss the prospects further then please write or telephone

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TREASURY ANALYST

Salary: £14,840-£18,222

Northern Electric plc, one of the largest Companies wholly based in the North East, have a vacancy in the Treasury Section within the Group Finance Department for a Treasury Analyst. The section is located at the Company's Headquarters in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne.

This is a key post within a small team of three people responsible for the day to day management of the Company's cash flows and its relationships with banks and other financial institutions.

Applicants should have experience of working within a Treasury or relevant banking environment and have some knowledge of Treasury Instruments and hedging techniques. A degree of computer literacy is also required as the successful applicant will assist in the development of management reporting systems using International Treasurer, spreadsheets and other packages.

Probably aged mid twenties and educated to degree level, the successful candidate should be seeking a career in Treasury, hold an ACIB qualification or be willing to work towards the Diploma in Corporate Treasury Management.

Assistance towards house removal will be available if necessary.

Please send a detailed CV to the Personnel Director - Power, Northern Electric plc, Carlisle House, Market Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1NE quoting Reference No. 274/90 by 24 September 1990.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post irrespective of disability, ethnic origin, sex or marital status.



The heart of the North

JAMES DICKIE plc FINANCE DIRECTOR

Bedfordshire Over £35,000 Car and Benefits

James Dickie plc is the Holding Company for 10 operating subsidiaries in the U.K. Group strengths lie in the quality and diversity of engineering products and services. Customer base, home and export, includes equipment manufacturers of the highest international standing.

Following rapid growth significant management changes have been made up to and including Board level in order to underpin further planned expansion of activities and profits.

A Finance Director is now needed to complete the top executive team. Candidates for this very key appointment must be qualified, probably Chartered Accountants, with impressive industrial experience, part of which will have been in engineering. A good practical knowledge of the accounting and reporting requirements for a Listed company is essential. The appointee will also demonstrate sufficient overall professionalism to represent the Group in contacts and negotiations with City and other institutions. Age is likely to be in the range 35-45. A profit sharing arrangement is envisaged in the remuneration package.

Please send a full CV in confidence to:

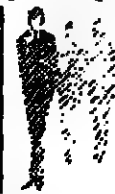
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SENIOR MANAGERS

NUMETRIX

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With the mission to:

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- Participate in pre and post sales activities.

Our candidates:

- Is a university graduate in Industrial, Chemical or Process Engineering or Applied mathematics.
- Has hands on experience in production planning, MRP and logistics planning, preferably in the process or consumer products industries.
- Has high communication skills and interest in developing his sales skills.
- Demonstrates entrepreneurial flair with a preference for working independently.

NUMETRIX offers:

- A challenge to take expanding responsibility in an important stage of the company's development.
- A strong international support team
- A chance to grow with a dynamic organisation
- A highly attractive remuneration package, commensurate with experience and ability.

Send your CV in full confidence to Mr Antony Slaughter, Sales Manager, Numetrix Limited, Sales 5, Palmerston Court, Palmerston Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4DX

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DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (ROMANIA)

The Romanian Orphanage Trust

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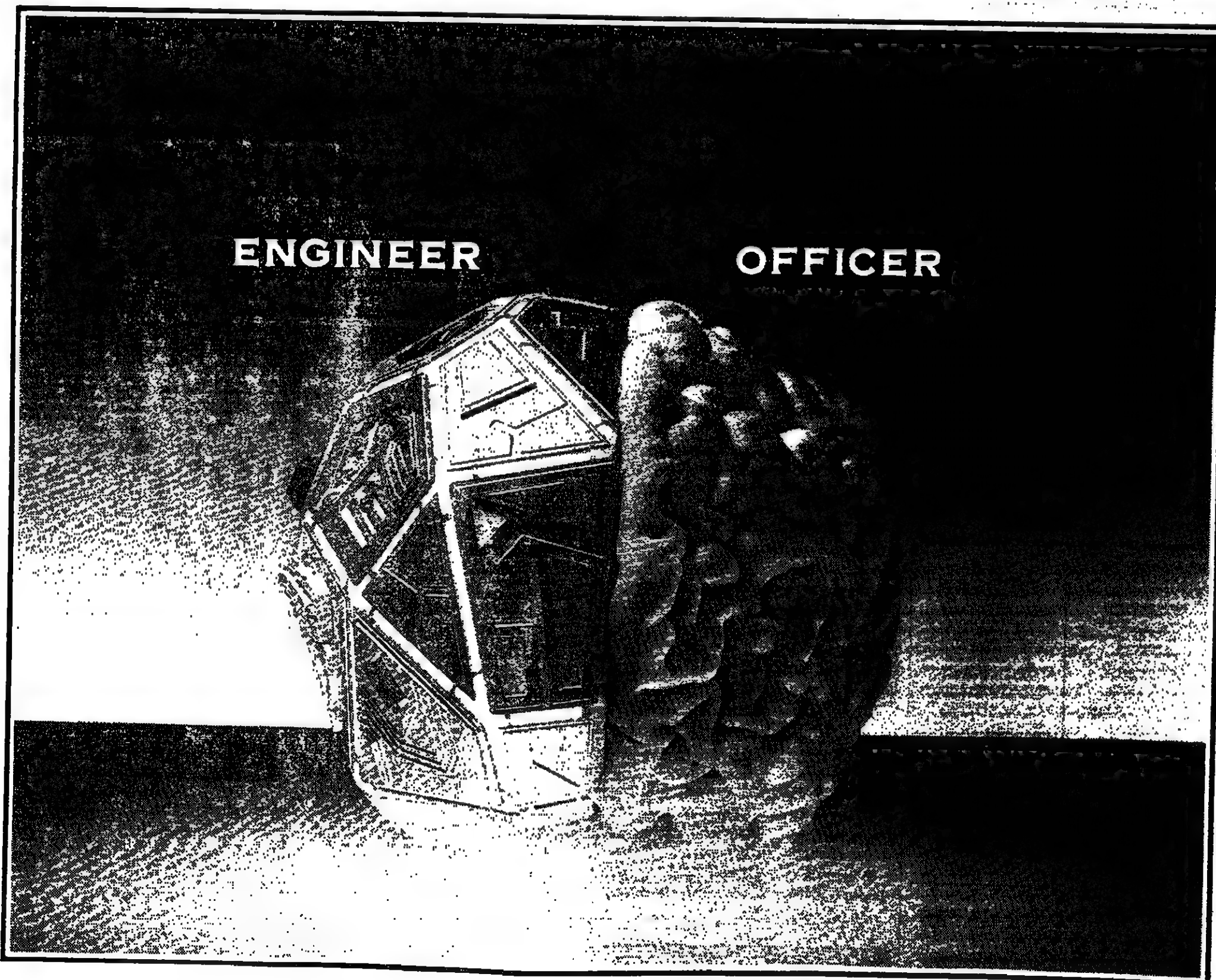
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued from page 14

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Continued on next page

A model of sprinting style, Krabbe is fast becoming European athletics' answer to Flo-Jo

Things are looking good for the East German golden girl

From DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
SPLIT

ONE look at Katrin Krabbe and you question what Thomas Springstein is worrying about. "Will I have a job when I get home?" he wonders. He will as long as Krabbe values him as her coach.

There has been Flo-Jo from the United States and Merlene Ottey, from Jamaica, but Krabbe is East Germany's first "glam-athlete". "When I picked her from a group of young athletes, it was for her good proportions," Springstein said.

He was referring, of course, to her build, which offered potential as a sprinter. But East German athletes have to find their own living now that they do not have state support, and Krabbe will soon discover that there is nothing better than a gold medal hung round a pretty neck. Her commercial value will be higher than the average European champion.

Krabbe, aged 20, has reached the top early. It was only two years ago that she was the junior world champion at 200 metres. Last year, she won the European Cup at Gateshead.

This year only Ottey has beaten her, and now she is sensing a European sprint double. After winning the 100



metres convincingly on Tuesday, no one doubts that Krabbe will take the 200 metres today.

That should guarantee Springstein employment. As a state-appointed coach, he lost his security when Germany first moved towards unity, and his contract ends next month. The economic difficulties encountered by unification means that only two of East Germany's 592 athletics trainers will remain employed, and Springstein is not one of them.

"It's very important to me that Katrin wins," Springstein said. The double should bring the sponsors running. Krabbe's time on Tuesday, 10.89sec, equalled her fastest and put her two-tenths of a second clear of Silke Möller, the world champion. Krabbe had run 10.89sec in Berlin two years ago, but Springstein is suspicious of the wind-reading. "It was given as 1.7, but I think it was more than 2.0," he said. A following wind of two metres per second or more renders times illegal for records.

Apart from in Gateshead,

where she won in 11.52sec against Britain and Canada, Krabbe's times this season have been mostly just over 11.00sec.

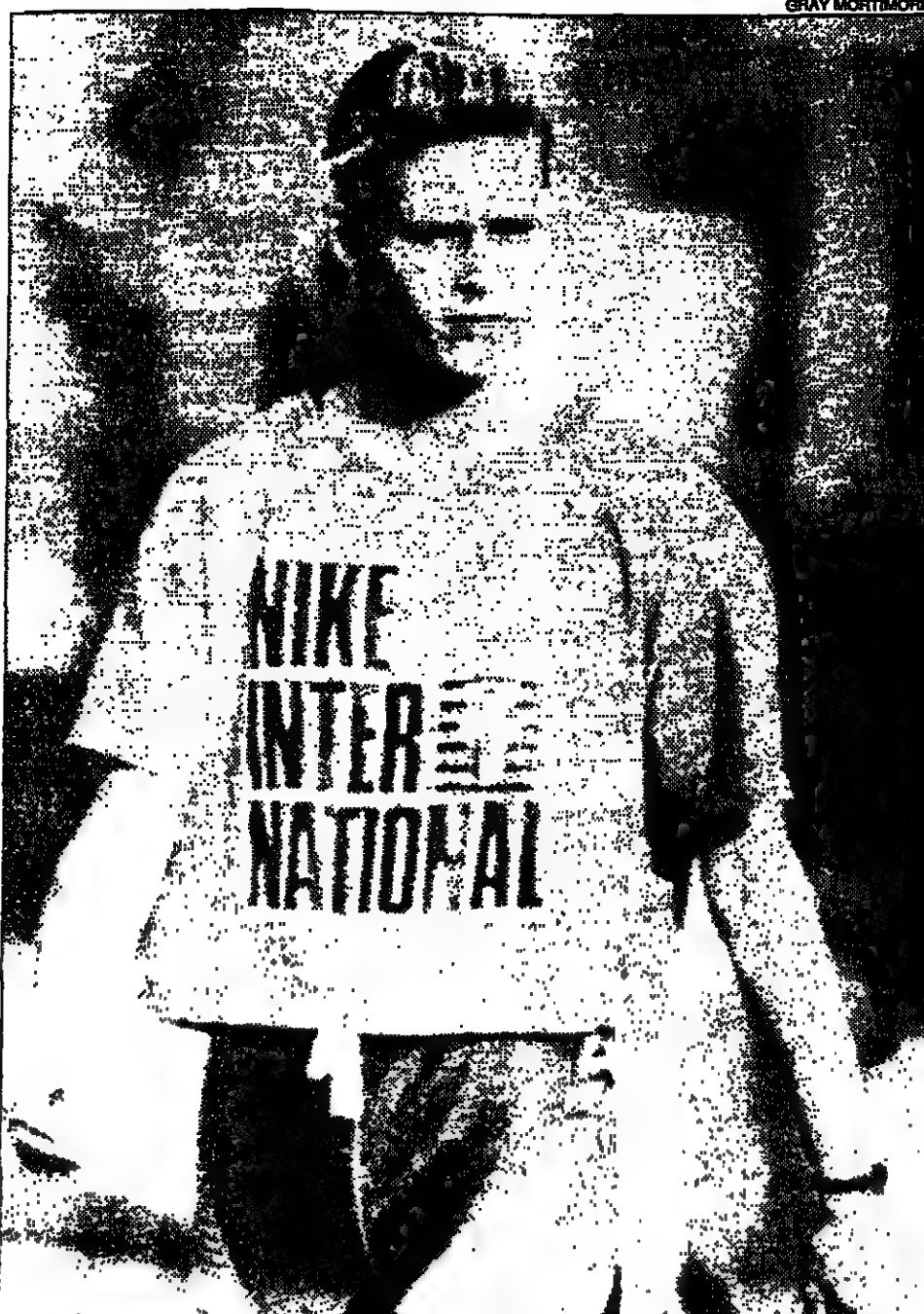
The five-week break from the grand prix circuit to concentrate on training, including 16 days at altitude, evidently sharpened her. She ran 11.10sec into a headwind in Zurich upon her return, and 10.99sec in Berlin.

The break from the circuit is an indication that Krabbe is not motivated by money but by medals. The East German championships this year were a pale imitation of those before unification as athletes put their pockets first.

Krabbe was 16 when Springstein noticed her, and has worked with her ever since. He expects further improvement once she pumps her arms.

Her start is a powerful weapon. "Sometimes it may look slow, but that is because she is tall [5ft 11½in]," Springstein said. "In fact, it is very fast. In 1988 she went to 30 metres in 4.16sec. Florence Griffith-Joyner was the fastest with 4.05sec."

After this year, there will be no East German team, but one combining East and West. Gone will be the blue singlet, which means Krabbe will have to change her matching eye make-up. After all, she has to keep up appearances.



Moving into the fast lane: Krabbe, climbing the ladder to commercial success

RUGBY UNION

RFU unwilling to limit a player's freedom to move

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

DESPITE the growing movement of players within English club rugby, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) will resist any attempt to restrict the freedom players enjoy. Although it was confirmed yesterday that player-registration would be mandatory for the first time in the new season for all sides involved in the Courage clubs championship, the RFU has stopped well short of the more severe French licensing system.

"We allow movement between clubs because that has been traditional in English rugby, but we need to exercise control," Bill Bishop, chairman of the RFU competitions sub-committee, said at Twickenham yesterday at the launch of the fourth season of the Courage clubs championship. "We are extremely concerned about the movement of players but that is more a matter for the union as a whole if it relates to the spirit of the situation."

Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, said there were no plans to introduce regulations inhibiting player movement "because they do so for all sorts of reasons. We appreciate that some of those reasons could come within the orbit of the amateur regulations, which would be a major concern. If inducements were offered then the RFU would be very concerned and there would be a serious danger for any club found to be involved."

In the 1990-91 season, therefore, all players belonging to the 1,185 clubs involved in the 111 divisions of the championship will be required to complete registration forms which give basic information on the individual's background and which club - if any - he has transferred from.

The other important change to the championship, which

begins on September 22, is the increase in size, to 13 clubs, of the three national divisions north and south. "Clubs at all levels seek an increase in competitive matches," Bishop said. "So it is anticipated that all leagues will go to 13 clubs each in season 1992-93. That is, after the World Cup."

Bishop confirmed that the first half of the 1991-92 season will be played as a result of the World Cup, in which matches will be played throughout October 1991 and into the first week of November.

At the request of Geoff Cooke, the England squad manager, no England squad players will be involved in competitive club rugby during September 1991.

Therefore, the ADT divisional and county matches will be played in October and the league season will begin on November 16 and run through December. The divisional and county championship matches will also exclude England squad players.

The first England squad of the season is due to be announced today and will include 32 players to meet at a northern venue over the weekend of September 8 and 9. The culmination will be a game between XV seasonally against Mike Peary, the RFU president, against Newcastle-Gosforth, who are celebrating the opening of their new premises at Kingston Park.

The other important change to the championship, which

Bath insist there is no bad blood

By DAVID HANDS

BATH, the Pilkington Cup holders, who have lost eight players during the close season, say to seek further information from their departing members about their reasons for leaving England's most successful club of the 1980s. However, Dave Howard, the secretary, was at pains yesterday to dispel any thought of bad blood between Bath and Newport, to whom they have lost five of the eight.

Tuesday evening's management committee meeting at Twickenham, where Howard said, with routine matters, including the departure of players, five to Newport, two to Clifton and one to Bristol. "When you look at the players who have gone, while they were all members of the club, none of them were regular first-teamers who

have gone," he said. "We are concerned that five players have left Bath for Newport and we would like to have a chat with them all."

It is Howard's opinion that too much has been made of the departure of players, whose expectancy of senior rugby at Bath may be limited. The club holders have been joined by Jim Fallow, the Richmond and South-West divisional wing, who plays against Pontypool on Saturday, and Andy Reed, the Plymouth Albion fly-half.

There remains a possibility that Simon Halliday, the England centre, may become available once more in mid-season, depending on the success of the operation he has had on his long-term ankle injury.

BRIDGE

Brighton has plans to stage 1992 Olympiad

By ALBERT DORMER

A RECORD-breaking English Bridge Union summer meeting at Brighton ended with victory in the Four Stars main event for Steve Barnfield, Marijke van Beesten, Richard Fleet and Bill Pencharz. In a tight finish to the eight-team final, they beat Douglas Smerdon, Dave Maer, Tony Waterhouse and Trevor Ward in a head-on encounter.

Two hundred and fifty other teams were overcome in the Brighton Bowl by a squad that, until recently, played at junior level: Glynis Liggins, Derek Dwyer, Richard Plunkett, and Derek Panton.

A runaway win for David Shek, Gus Calderwood, Barry Rigal and Peter Czerniewski added to their impressive record. In four of the six previous sessions for Spring Foursomes regional championships.

Brighton Conference Centre could now go on to stage the most prestigious of all world championships if Gerald Faulstich, chairman of the British Bridge League, has his way. "I am hoping we can host the 1992

World Team Olympiad here if financial terms can be agreed with the World Bridge Federation," he said, after a finding tour by the WBF president, Denis Howard.

However, the visit took place against a background of strained relations between Howard and the European Bridge League, whose president, Jack Demian, will oppose him in the WBF presidential election to be held in Geneva before the world championships begin on Saturday.

Support is the EBL with plans to move the 1992 Olympiad from Seville without consultation that their delegates might walk out of the meetings, which begin today with other business. The presidential election will be held on Thursday because of the late arrival of Bobby Wolf, an American delegate. Any walk-out would be unprecedented in the annals of an 80-nation body established in 1926 and now by consensus between the United States and Europe.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

Test match
11.0, 104 overs minimum
EDGBURGH: Warwickshire v Sri Lanka
British Assurance County Championship
11.0, 110 overs minimum
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Derbyshire
Bournemouth: Hampshire v Kent
BLACKPOOL: Lancashire v Surrey (10.30)
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Sussex
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Essex
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire

OTHER MATCH

11.0-6.30
SCARBOROUGH: Michael Parkinson's XI v Indians
UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL:
Headingley: England v Pakistan

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: English Bowling Federation national championships (Shaughnessy, Wood with Open Working)
CYCLING: McEvans (LA) (Northampton)
GOLF: WPS Variety Club Classic (Carnegie Park, Walsley) Junior championship (Sutton Park)
POWERBOATING: International week (Gusbury)
SPEEDWAY: (7.30) National League: Arma Easer v Stoke; Middleborough v Long Eaton. Top Mill Knock-out Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Ipswich v Poole. 22.30 and midnight

SPORT ON TV

ATHLETICS: European Cup. 09.00-11.30. 15.00-17.30 and 19.00-21.00. 22.00-23.00. TV 22.00-23.00. Coverage and highlights of the European Championships from Split.

Sinister new threat in war against drugs

DAVID MILLER

SPLIT BLOOD-doping, the practice of supplementing the blood volume of endurance competitors with doses of their own previously-extracted and oxygenated blood, known to be used by Scandinavian runners, now has an undetectable alternative process of operation.

Despite the detection and conviction of Ben Johnson, the world of sport is as far from winning the war against drugs as ever. That is the alarming news at the second major international athletics championship since the Seoul Olympic Games.

Professor Arnold Beckett, foremost among those attempting to keep sport medically clean and honest, and present at the European championships here as a

member of the testing commission, is emphatic and pessimistic in his view of the continuing evils that compromise public perception of every competitor, innocent or guilty.

"Our biggest problem in the immediate future is the replacement of blood-doping by the injection of artificially manufactured erythropoietin (EPO)," Beckett says. "The increasing use of endogenous substances, those already secreted naturally in the body, make our job exceedingly difficult. How do we determine the 'extra' amount present in any athlete?"

EPO, normally produced by the kidneys, increases the oxygen-absorption capacity of the red blood cells, and is manufactured exclusively by two companies in the United States and Japan. It is legitimately used for patients with kidney disease, as an alternative to dialysis.

As Beckett says, the blood-doping procedure is complicated, involving the collaboration of doctors, laboratories and coaches; and it is inevitable that the secret of participating individuals will be leaked from time to time. On the other hand, an athlete can privately inject himself with EPO undetected.

"We can measure EPO, but where should we set the limit that is allowable?" Beckett asks rhetorically. "As things stand, we can never distin-

guish between natural and artificial EPO, and the levels for the so-called normal person can vary substantially, including ethnically."

So great is the threat to legitimate competition that the International Skiing Federation has agreed to test the top 200 or so cross-country racers in Nordic skiing every three months in an attempt to limit the abuse. Is the International Amateur Athletics Federation willing to do the same? On its past record, such as Johnson, this does not seem likely.

Two steps are necessary, according to Beckett. The first is a government mandate that will require manufacturers to insert in artificial EPO an inert "marker" agent, free of

effect on competitors but instantly identifiable.

Without government support, sporting authorities cannot persuade manufacturers to accept the expense of inserting the marking agent. The British Home Office has stalled, for instance, on the request to make possession of anabolic steroids an offence, never mind that it is big business. Swedish customs officials have recently caught a steroid smuggler with 200kg, enough for an entire Olympic team for a year.

The second, and more controversial, step, would be for international sports federations to introduce a legal level of EPO in the blood, for which competitors would have to sign an acceptance form beforehand.

This, of course, enters the

difficult area of civil liberties. Beckett argues that if sport can have weight, age and sex divisions, they can have an EPO-level division.

"Analysis on its own doesn't solve the drugs issue, it only acts as a deterrent," Beckett says. "Random testing [for steroids] has to be much more global... and unannounced. A maximum of two to three days notice. Only taken, steroids are only evident in testing for 14 days."

Beckett endorses the view of Sir Arthur Gold, the honorary life president of the European Athletics Association, that competitors have to be either unlucky or stupid to be detected positive. "We're always bound to be behind those who are attacking sport's integrity. There will be a time-lag in our counter-attack," Beckett says.

SPORTS LETTERS

Preserving Bisham's heritage

From the director of Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre. Sir, Mr Brookes (August 23) confirms his knowledge of the history of Bisham Abbey but he is not correct in his assumption that any increase in use of the centre will "ravish this great heritage".

It is not unreasonable, nor will it be detrimental to the sports centre, to let professional, commercial or community groups use the unique rooms and facilities when they are not required by our elite national sportsmen and women.

I can assure Mr Brookes and other readers that maintaining the fabric of the buildings and the quality of the environment of the site were paramount considerations when the Sports Council was preparing the contract for competitive tendering. In fact, it will be my ongoing responsibility to ensure that the peaceful setting, so attractive and important to sportsmen and women preparing for a major

competition, is preserved when they are using the centre.

Mr Lightbown's comment that the site is "not suitable for serious-minded sportsmen is remarkable considering the choice of apparatus took account of the special requirements of the main governing bodies of sport that use the centre. The nucleus was intended to be the weightlifting area because the national squads for this sport train at the centre every weekend.

Two weeks ago the British Olympic Association held a most successful training camp at Bisham Abbey for seven Olympic sports and Bisham is now one of the venues being considered for formal designation as an Olympic training centre.

Yours faithfully,
BEV STEPHENS,
Centre director,
Bisham Abbey,
National Sports Centre,
nr Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Beyond dispute

From Mr Patrick Alexander. Sir, Nigel Benn, says the American promoter Bob Arum (August 20), is "the best English fighter ever to come to the United States". "Ever" is a long time. What about Bob Fitzsimmons for starters? He never went more than 11st 7lb but knocked out "Gentleman" Jim Corbett for the world heavy-weight championship in Nevada, way back in 1897.

And a few others since then, like Randolph Turpin, Terry

Bradman still at the top

From Mr Michael Harrington. Sir, It was ridiculous to claim (August 28) that Graham Gooch had in some way "beaten" Don Bradman by scoring more Test runs this summer than Bradman did in 1930.

In the 1930 series between Australia and England Bradman played seven innings for 974 runs at an average of 139.14. In the two 1990 Test series, when England played New Zealand and India, Gooch played 11 innings for 1,058 runs at an average of 96.18.

To have equalled "the Don" overall Gooch would have had to score in excess of 1,530 over 14 innings. Gooch has had a great summer, but he has not beaten Bradman.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HARRINGTON,
101 Lillington Gardens,
Westminster, SW1.

Four bowlers always enough

From Mr Dennis H. Taylor. Sir, May I plead that the selectors of England's Test team ignore the calls for a side with but five batsmen, a wicketkeeper, and five specialist bowlers.

Think back to the side for the Oval Test in 1938 - we had seven specialist batsmen. The victorious Australian team of 1989 always had the thought of Steve Waugh coming in at No. 6.

A captain with but five batsmen has of necessity to be on the defensive from the start. Six batsmen and hopefully a wicketkeeper who can bat (another Les Ames perhaps) then the captain can be adventurous.

Four bowlers should always be enough and hopefully two batsmen who can bowl, to take the pressure off them. Such bowlers should contain, rather than attack, although the Chappell brothers whose batting ability was never in doubt, also found time to take wickets for Australia.

Our bowling today both at Test and county level is weak and selecting five such bowlers will prove nothing. Desirable as it undoubtedly is, a balanced attack should be more successful than an unbalanced attack.

Picking a side containing bowlers who operate differently one to the other is not in itself an answer to mediocrity. Yours faithfully,
D. H. TAYLOR,
Elthorne, Toll Road,
Porlock, Minehead, Somerset.

The good old days

From Mr James H. E. Rodley. Sir, It may well be true, as Simon Barnes suggests, that the "sour comments" of Fred Trueman on Radio 3 have become a national joke (August 24) but I fear it is unwise to dismiss them as the ramblings of a "bitter old pro".

The barrage of short-pitched bowling and surfeit of one-day games alluded to by Barnes has not only changed cricket, but in reality created a new sport, a ghastly cross between "rollerball" and American football, played out for the benefit of satellite television companies. It is not the game enjoyed by Trueman or his contemporaries, and whilst we continue to pretend that it is, Fred Trueman (or indeed anyone) is quite

Village cricket

From Mr Robert Rowe. Sir, The recent village cricket final, fought out at Lord's (report, August 27), seemed to me to be played with great professionalism by two exceptionally talented sides - in my view so far removed from the traditional picture of the village game that I thought it about time to invent some "village cricket" rules.

Here are a few suggestions: 1. At least one of the umpires must be a player from the batting team. 2. There should be at least one player aged over 50 and one under 18 in each side. 3. The teams may if they wish convene in the pub before the game but absolutely must do so after it.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046. They should include a daytime telephone number.

BURGHLEY PREVIEW

A look at this year's course, timetable and running order.

Also New World Champion Blyth Tail and National Champion Mary Thomson talk about how their own horses will go.

Plus report and pics from:

- Hickstead Silk Out Show Jumping Derby
- The European Young Rider Three-Day Event Championships from Rothfield Park
- Ponies UK Summer championships
- The Pony Club Tetrahion championships

Each week, Horse and Hound brings you up-to-date news and comment with full colour pictures from the equestrian scene.

New comprehensive results section - For the record

HORSE and HOUND

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SELLING EQUESTRIAN WEEKLY. OUT NOW.

Italy adds weight to Moore ban

Firm ground no obstacle to in-form Prescott

joined Prescott earlier in the year and was registering his third win of the season here. "He likes turning courses, and has done well for his owner, Arthur Finn, who has had a difficult year as a fruit farmer so I hope this has cheered him up," Prescott said afterwards.

Diaco is not the fastest horse in training but the five-year-old has a loyal owner in John Good, who paid 7,000 guineas to retain the winner of the Newhaven Selling Handicap.

Backed from 12-1 to 6-1, Diaco strode clear by five lengths to land his first success for three seasons, repaying the patience of his owner, and afterwards Michael Jarvis said the winner might be put over **handicapper**.

Saumarez likely to Redcar win

Change hands again

SAUMAREZ, the winner of the Grand Prix de Paris and a live contender for this Sunday's Champion Stakes may soon be sold again for the second time this season.

trained. Robert Sangster's much improved Kostroma, bred and trained by Tommy Slack, and Hermot, Welsh's status pool would look near best to splash Off Colour in the home brigade.

is notable for Carter

WALLY Carter, the Epsom trainee, landed the fifth winner of his career when Saumarez Secret, the 6-4 favourite, cap-

The four-day acceptors are: Bashford, Huxley, Observation Post, Silakston, Kosproma, Defensive Play, Elmarmal, Lobs Pool, Missionary Ridge, Old Talka River, Saumarez, Splash Of Colour, Thwait.

finished second in the Dee Stakes at Chester, Saumarez is sold in the early summer to 11-4 Sarasin, 2-1 On Via, 6-1 Belmez, 12-1 In The Groove, In The Wings, 14-1 Epervier Bleu, ago and landed a gamble at Folkestone last week, easily covered with the 6th coupon by

Bruce McNall prior to his runaway Grand Prix de Paris success. Steve Caithen has been booked by his trainer Nicholas Clement to ride Saumarez at Phoenix Park on Sunday.

The Dublin bookmaker Alan Sangiamore, 16-1 bar.

Hills raider has stiff task

The group one Prix du Moulin

Reg Hollinhead's apprentices Tony Garth and Gary Hind had mixed fortunes in the opener. Garth, aged 20, rode the first winner of his career on Nipotine, but Hind picked up a

joint-favourite with the Juddmonte International runner-up, de Longchamp on Sunday may have a depleted field of five with Pat Eddery's mount, Distant two-day suspension (September 7 and 8), for hitting his mount Ruddy Cass down the shoulder.

per-up Elmaslam for the ten-furlong group one event.

Vincent O'Brien's Splash Of Colour, Old Vic's half-brother and unbeaten after two races, is 7-2.

Bruce Raymond's mount Batshof (9-2) is big in the Turhill list.

Ladbrokes have also issued prices on Sunday's big race. Saundres are their 2-1 favourite, followed by 3-1 Elmaslam, 4-1 Batshof and 6-1 Splash Of Colour.

Relative, the only certain British challenger, although Michael Siouze yesterday left the door open for a possible challenge from the French.

Distant Relative has a tough assignment as Francois Boutin confirmed yesterday that he will run his two crack milers Priolo and Linamix, who beat the English Hill runner in the 1984 Prix Jacques Le Marois.

Boutin said: "Both owners

Nipotea, a well-backed 5-2 favourite, from 7-2, came from off the pace to lead over furlongs out and beat Swindlow Sea something to spare.

Gard said: "I think the British riders and thought that this one had a good chance of giving me my first success."

Frankie Dettori, who completed his first century of wins in the 1984 Prix Jacques Le Marois, partnered top weight Lesbonestaboul, trained by

Only five of the 13 horses initially declared are home-

Durkhan pick of Cumani's team

[illegible][illegible]

Great Marquess, Hajade, Helen	Rusono	3-8-11	Irish Emerald	3-8-11	Ghiani	4-7-0
Kienic, Karinga Bay, Kasayid, Le	Azazam	3-8-11	No Submission	4-8-0	Canden's Ransom	3-7-0
Faint, Fajalaka, Hading Ayen	Absonal	3-8-10	Knock Knock	3-8-0	King Of Misen	4-6-13

Streghe, Meilen, Mukdooan,	3-10	St. George	4-6-7
My Lord, Natanya, Paring	3-10	Sao Paulo	4-6-7
Moment, Pier Damiani, River	3-10	Rio Piedras	5-6-5
MoGo, River Rhymia, Royal	4-4-10	Pearl Enranda	4-6-5
Standard, Rubicand, Saurge,	4-6-9	Double Lord	4-6-5
Witness Box.		Kaleparay	4-5-11

To be run at Newmarket on Saturday October 6.

Brighton Riddle Cass, 14 Theocric (4ch). 7 ran. 23. **Newton Abbot**
1½. 23. ½. 4L R Hollishead at Upper

2.15 (6) 1. BERKELEY HILL BOY (T)
Quinn, 5-4; 2, **Smeelee** (Pst Estery), 5-4
car, 3, **Baiticos** (G Durfield), 3-4
RAN: 7 Henry William (4th), 14 Magnesia
SHN: 40 Sunngrove Pride (6th), 6 ran. 4, 3d,
5d, 6d, 7d, 8d, 9d, 10d, 11d, 12d, 13d, 14d, 15d, 16d, 17d, 18d, 19d, 20d, 21d, 22d, 23d, 24d, 25d, 26d, 27d, 28d, 29d, 30d, 31d, 32d, 33d, 34d, 35d, 36d, 37d, 38d, 39d, 40d, 41d, 42d, 43d, 44d, 45d, 46d, 47d, 48d, 49d, 50d, 51d, 52d, 53d, 54d, 55d, 56d, 57d, 58d, 59d, 60d, 61d, 62d, 63d, 64d, 65d, 66d, 67d, 68d, 69d, 70d, 71d, 72d, 73d, 74d, 75d, 76d, 77d, 78d, 79d, 80d, 81d, 82d, 83d, 84d, 85d, 86d, 87d, 88d, 89d, 90d, 91d, 92d, 93d, 94d, 95d, 96d, 97d, 98d, 99d, 100d, 101d, 102d, 103d, 104d, 105d, 106d, 107d, 108d, 109d, 110d, 111d, 112d, 113d, 114d, 115d, 116d, 117d, 118d, 119d, 120d, 121d, 122d, 123d, 124d, 125d, 126d, 127d, 128d, 129d, 130d, 131d, 132d, 133d, 134d, 135d, 136d, 137d, 138d, 139d, 140d, 141d, 142d, 143d, 144d, 145d, 146d, 147d, 148d, 149d, 150d, 151d, 152d, 153d, 154d, 155d, 156d, 157d, 158d, 159d, 160d, 161d, 162d, 163d, 164d, 165d, 166d, 167d, 168d, 169d, 170d, 171d, 172d, 173d, 174d, 175d, 176d, 177d, 178d, 179d, 180d, 181d, 182d, 183d, 184d, 185d, 186d, 187d, 188d, 189d, 190d, 191d, 192d, 193d, 194d, 195d, 196d, 197d, 198d, 199d, 200d, 201d, 202d, 203d, 204d, 205d, 206d, 207d, 208d, 209d, 210d, 211d, 212d, 213d, 214d, 215d, 216d, 217d, 218d, 219d, 220d, 221d, 222d, 223d, 224d, 225d, 226d, 227d, 228d, 229d, 230d, 231d, 232d, 233d, 234d, 235d, 236d, 237d, 238d, 239d, 240d, 241d, 242d, 243d, 244d, 245d, 246d, 247d, 248d, 249d, 250d, 251d, 252d, 253d, 254d, 255d, 256d, 257d, 258d, 259d, 260d, 261d, 262d, 263d, 264d, 265d, 266d, 267d, 268d, 269d, 270d, 271d, 272d, 273d, 274d, 275d, 276d, 277d, 278d, 279d, 280d, 281d, 282d, 283d, 284d, 285d, 286d, 287d, 288d, 289d, 290d, 291d, 292d, 293d, 294d, 295d, 296d, 297d, 298d, 299d, 300d, 301d, 302d, 303d, 304d, 305d, 306d, 307d, 308d, 309d, 310d, 311d, 312d, 313d, 314d, 315d, 316d, 317d, 318d, 319d, 320d, 321d, 322d, 323d, 324d, 325d, 326d, 327d, 328d, 329d, 330d, 331d, 332d, 333d, 334d, 335d, 336d, 337d, 338d, 339d, 340d, 341d, 342d, 343d, 344d, 345d, 346d, 347d, 348d, 349d, 350d, 351d, 352d, 353d, 354d, 355d, 356d, 357d, 358d, 359d, 360d, 361d, 362d, 363d, 364d, 365d, 366d, 367d, 368d, 369d, 370d, 371d, 372d, 373d, 374d, 375d, 376d, 377d, 378d, 379d, 380d, 381d, 382d, 383d, 384d, 385d, 386d, 387d, 388d, 389d, 390d, 391d, 392d, 393d, 394d, 395d, 396d, 397d, 398d, 399d, 400d, 401d, 402d, 403d, 404d, 405d, 406d, 407d, 408d, 409d, 410d, 411d, 412d, 413d, 414d, 415d, 416d, 417d, 418d, 419d, 420d, 421d, 422d, 423d, 424d, 425d, 426d, 427d, 428d, 429d, 430d, 431d, 432d, 433d, 434d, 435d, 436d, 437d, 438d, 439d, 440d, 441d, 442d, 443d, 444d, 445d, 446d, 447d, 448d, 449d, 450d, 451d, 452d, 453d, 454d, 455d, 456d, 457d, 458d, 459d, 460d, 461d, 462d, 463d, 464d, 465d, 466d, 467d, 468d, 469d, 470d, 471d, 472d, 473d, 474d, 475d, 476d, 477d, 478d, 479d, 480d, 481d, 482d, 483d, 484d, 485d, 486d, 487d, 488d, 489d, 490d, 491d, 492d, 493d, 494d, 495d, 496d, 497d, 498d, 499d, 500d, 501d, 502d, 503d, 504d, 505d, 506d, 507d, 508d, 509d, 510d, 511d, 512d, 513d, 514d, 515d, 516d, 517d, 518d, 519d, 520d, 521d, 522d, 523d, 524d, 525d, 526d, 527d, 528d, 529d, 530d, 531d, 532d, 533d, 534d, 535d, 536d, 537d, 538d, 539d, 540d, 541d, 542d, 543d, 544d, 545d, 546d, 547d, 548d, 549d, 550d, 551d, 552d, 553d, 554d, 555d, 556d, 557d, 558d, 559d, 560d, 561d, 562d, 563d, 564d, 565d, 566d, 567d, 568d, 569d, 570d, 571d, 572d, 573d, 574d, 575d, 576d, 577d, 578d, 579d, 580d, 581d, 582d, 583d, 584d, 585d, 586d, 587d, 588d, 589d, 590d, 591d, 592d, 593d, 594d, 595d, 596d, 597d, 598d, 599d, 600d, 601d, 602d, 603d, 604d, 605d, 606d, 607d, 608d, 609d, 610d, 611d, 612d, 613d, 614d, 615d, 616d, 617d, 618d, 619d, 620d, 621d, 622d, 623d, 624d, 625d, 626d, 627d, 628d, 629d, 630d, 631d, 632d, 633d, 634d, 635d, 636d, 637d, 638d, 639d, 640d, 641d, 642d, 643d, 644d, 645d, 646d, 647d, 648d, 649d, 650d, 651d, 652d, 653d, 654d, 655d, 656d, 657d, 658d, 659d, 660d, 661d, 662d, 663d, 664d, 665d, 666d, 667d, 668d, 669d, 670d, 671d, 672d, 673d, 674d, 675d, 676d, 677d, 678d, 679d, 680d, 681d, 682d,

2.45 (3m 2f 100yd ch) 1. Tullio orange
(Evans 1st) 2. Major Tom (B-1) 3. New
Gamb (100-10) 4. par. 3% 5. R. birch.

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lander (5th), 8 Smokey Native (4th), 15-2 methystine, 16 Hardierone, 8 ran. $\frac{1}{2}$ k, $\frac{1}{2}$ l, hd. 1l. M Prescott. Total: £7.40;

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4:46 (1m 41), ROCK FACE (G Duffield, 2 fav; 2, Thin Red Line (Pat Eddery, 9-1); 3, Prince Call I (Rand, 5-1). ALSO FAVORITE: **VICTORY** (Sean McKeeown, 15-2). ALSO RAN: 200 O K Nurus (4th), Purdie Flash (5th), 5 ran, 5l, 1st, dist., P Kelleway at Monmouth, Trkr FJ 70-21, 30, FJ 30, DE.

Redcar

2.0 (1m 3f) 1. NIPOTINA (A Gerth, 5-2
wv): 2. Sunflower Seed (D Hanson, 9-2):
(Rn. NF: Harry Pae, Sh hd. no, rk, 1%
1%L T Barry at Maunty. Tot: 227.30:
\$5.70, \$2.80, \$4.90. DF: \$197.90. CSF:
1st Classified Results excluding
Pool Cash

The Heavy (S Maloney, 6-1). ALSO RAN
2 San Roque (SM), 7 Padova (RM), 8

STYNAME:
Placepot: \$13.50.

Carla Chardard, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671

AMERICAN HONOLULU BRANCH 1000 N. KALANOAU AVE. HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 TELEPHONE: 971-1111

India's defeat in the Test series with England was an enthralling reminder of their unique approach to cricket and to life

The enigmatic masters of the unexpected

SIMON BARNES

INDIA is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. Indian cricket offers yet another convulsion of perfect incomprehensibility.

Graham Gooch, the England captain, understands cricket as a game in which you work hard, concentrate like smoke, play for the side, accept the hurls and the knocks, and pursue victory with blinkered single-mindedness. Lord knows what he makes of Indian cricket's values.

On the last day of the last Test of the series this week, a day on which India still had a reasonable chance of winning the match and levelling in the series, they went through a series of quite baffling evolutions of policy and tactics. No other Test country in the world would have even considered such moves a possibility.

The captain, Mohammed

Azharrudin (later made India's man of the series) was not seen all day. Apparently, he was suffering from a poorly heeled shoe, or perhaps he had really been sacked, or canonised—who could begin to guess? We were told that Ravi Shastri was standing in for him; Shastri himself seemed unaware of this.

Narendra Hirwani was set to bowl 59 consecutive overs of leg spin, during which he took one wicket for 137 runs. The new ball was not taken; by the time the match was called off, the ball, 154 overs old, must be like a bath sponge. What on earth were they doing out there?

India's finest moment in the series was Azharrudin's brilliant

121 at Lord's—an innings of exquisite beauty, the speed of which catapulted England into a position from which they could, and did, win. It is somehow utterly characteristic of India that the greatest achievements of the cricket team should be self-destructive.

But you cannot actually rely on the fragility of the Indian temperament. The following Test was saved by an innings of guts and resolution, and, as a typically Indian touch, its author was aged 17, the splendid Sachin Tendulkar.

Wherever you look in Indian cricket, you find contradiction. The team's frailties, its tendency to collective lack of courage, is understood as a fact throughout the cricketing world. "They don't like it up 'em", as Corporal Jones would say.

Yet cricket's most remarkable records for courage in adversity are both Indian. In 1976, India scored the highest ever last-innings total to win a Test, making 406 to beat the West Indies, of all people. Then we have Sunil Gavaskar's score of 34 Test centuries, 13 of them against the West Indies.

Indian cricket, like India itself, possesses its own logic and pursues goals that non-Indians cannot see, marching doggedly out of step to the beat of a drum that no non-Indian can hear. No doubt, to some Indians, Hirwani's 59 overs seem the only possible solution to a problem none of the rest of us knew was there.

Then there is the history of one-day cricket in India. Somehow or other, on a wonderful day at Lord's, they won the World Cup in 1983, something England has

never managed. They followed this a couple of years later by winning the Benson and Hedges world championship in Australia. I shall not dwell on the humiliations. I find them too painful. I love India far too much. But India can outdo England every time at the art of plucking defeat from the jaws of victory. It can outdo the world at the art of the unexpected—even unexpected victory.

Every contradiction you could wish for is there. India, the place where time does not matter, has, to the bafflement of the world, fallen under the sway of one-day cricket.

Mihir Bose, in his latest book, explains this in terms of the cosmic forces of Indian impatience. "They all shout 'jaldi, jaldi', hurry, hurry. All those cries of 'jaldi' issue forth from millions

of Indian lips, literally every second, forming, as it were, a vast cloud of 'jaldi' over the horizon but—and here we have the Indian trick—the cloud casts no shadow... everybody shouts 'jaldi'; nobody hurries."

One-day cricket, he says, also satisfies the Indian delight in *laramsha*, or festival. Indian festivals are about as inscrutable as New Year's Eve in Trafalgar Square.

And then the politics: politics that would flabbergast the Medicis and the Borgias. The least secure job in the world is that of Indian cricket captain: one might as soon be an English professional snow-shoveller.

Bose writes: "In other countries, such roller-coaster rides, continual destructions of dreams, may have led to neurosis, but Indians, probably the world's greatest optimists, are always ready to believe that around the next corner will emerge a leader who will solve everything, that the next series will, miraculously, conjure up a world-beating cricket team... In many ways, it is the Indian's continuing faith in the power of the individual to set right everything that prevents them going mad when contemplating their history."

Or even their present. Indian cricket offers a tiny, quarter-comprehensible clue towards the understanding of the dizzying, head-spinning incomprehensibilities of India itself. Already, I long for the next series.

***A HISTORY OF INDIAN CRICKET**, by Mihir Bose, foreword by Sunil Gavaskar. Published by Andre Deutsch, price £19.95.

CRICKET

Gower's welcome is proof of his place in a nation's hearts

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Gower arrived at the most genteel of county grounds yesterday to further evidence that his century at the Oval meant more to many people, than a Test match saved. Television cameras awaited him, interviews were conducted between fielding calls on his mobile phone and every sight of him had the Bournemouth patrons clapping and cheering while others were in tears. Even I had a lump in my throat. It was one of those rare sporting moments which give you goose-pimples.

Mark Nicholas, Gower's captain at Hampshire, was in the crowd and said yesterday: "It was an extraordinary reaction. People were standing and cheering while others were in tears. Even I had a lump in my throat. It was one of those rare sporting moments which give you goose-pimples."

The private thoughts of the chiefs in the England dressing-room may have been more complex. They would all have been pleased for Gower, because as a man he has no known enemies, but the sudden security of his tour place may have aroused less euphoria, because as a cricketer he has doubters and detractors.

Since he returned to the Test team, it has been possible to sense suspicion on both sides. Gower's comment about being at "a different party" to his team-mates did not exclusively refer to his shortage of runs. He had probably found it hard to feel he belonged within a team whose approach and routines had altered so much since his days as captain only last year.

Gower is not comfortable with the football mentality which preaches work at the expense of flair. He may regard the England team "huddle" as absurd and undignified, judging by his noticeable reluctance to join in at the Oval.

But for their part, Graham Gooch and Micky Stewart have to assess the effect upon others of such an individual. In the Caribbean, they imposed change more easily for Gower's absence. When he came back to the side, Gooch, for one, doubted if his old friend was actually enjoying himself.

Gower was happy enough to be involved again but his distracted air betrayed the fear that it could all be short-term. "Like everyone else, I am susceptible to doubts and I have had a few recently," he said yesterday. "This last Test meant a great deal to me because I knew another low score would give them every excuse to leave me at home and who knows whether I could have come back again after that?"

Even if only subconsciously, Gower may feel the remains of a "them and me" conflict. The management may feel it, too. But as it is now unarguable that Gower will be in Australia, any remaining suspicions must be resolved. Gower has to fall in line with the way the team is run, like it or not; the management has to make him feel as wanted as his accomplishments merit. Inclusion on the tour selection committee would be a good way to start.

When Ostler was out, skying to square leg, it was to Madurusinghe's leg spin. The teenager took four wickets in all in a long spell which boded well for their tour—and their Test—next summer. Madurusinghe mastered him yesterday.

"We have many potential Tendulkars," Mumtaz Yusuf, the team manager, said. If that is so, they could do with some of the 60,000 Sri Lankans in Britain coming to see them. The hope is that many will be at the Oval on Sunday, for a one-day match against Surrey.

The most impressive aspect of the Sri Lankan cricket here was their fielding. Wijegunawardene took a particularly fine springing catch to dismiss Ostler. After that, Green struck 44 as Moles went inexorably to his century. His 117 took nearly five hours.

Geoff Humphreys, the Warwickshire wicketkeeper-batsman, has announced he will retire from first-class cricket at the end of the season.

Chris Broad, of Nottinghamshire, England's outstanding player in Australia for four years ago, might well be looking forward to a return visit had he not turned his back on going to South Africa. Yesterday's century against Warwickshire was his eighth of the season and took him past his previous best aggregate, 1,786, made in 1985.

Hampshire, still in the running for championship prize-money, lost their first five batsmen for 108 against Kent at Bournemouth, but were rescued by Aymes, the wicketkeeper, and Tremlett, the second team coach, who put on 102.

Moles was in the vanguard, scoring his fourth century of the season. He, it should be said, had a particular incentive to succeed. He has set himself a target of 2,000 runs this season and, having made 1,783 with three first-class matches to come, should achieve it.

His intentions were clear from the outset. Against an attack which rotated from military medium to alluring leg spin, he made just 41 in the morning before liming his covers down better effect. In this he was shown the way by Ostler, whose half-century was full of stylish leg-side flicks.

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No stopping him: Gooch drives towards his century at Northampton yesterday

Wells's new sense of responsibility

By JACK BAILEY

LEICESTER (first day of three: Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 290 runs behind Sussex.

GIVE or take a wicket or two and a few runs either way, a predictable course of events was followed at Grace Road yesterday. Leicestershire are lying fifth in the championship and are in with a good chance of a money-making position; Sussex have the wooden spoon staring them in the face.

Accordingly, Briers, upon winning the toss, asked the visitors to bat, sensing that his best chance lay with a run chase similar to that which brought them victory in the last match against Kent. For their part, Sussex used a placid pitch to cruise steadily along to maximum batting points with only four wickets down, before declaring.

Alan Wells was the architect with a century of solid craft, accelerating gradually after a cautious start, hitting a six and 14 fours on his way to three figures and sharing in stands of 58 with Greenfield and 91 with Spright, this after Leamham and Hall had opened with a partnership of 90 for the first wicket.

Wells was captain of Sussex for the first time—and for some time it showed. So seriously did he take his responsibilities that he faced 107 balls before reaching his half-century; slow progress for him with a lightning fast outfield and against a Leicestershire fielding side that contained a number of walking wounded. One of them,

Whitaker, might have caught Wells at mid-on off Willey when he had made 39.

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Ballesteros parts with his caddie

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN CRANESBURG, SWITZERLAND

SEVERIANO Ballesteros could not have chosen a better place to make his debut as a family man. Having become a father for the first time (his son has been called Baldomero, after Seve's father), Ballesteros today stars the defence of his Ebel European Masters title at Cranesburg-Sierre, at more than 6,000 feet up in the Swiss Alps the perfect venue for a man with his head already in the clouds.

He will have more than one adjustment to make this week, for he and Ian Wright, his caddie for the last two years, have gone their separate ways. There was, they stressed, no animosity, but they both felt it was the right time to part.

Wright is working for Seve's training of Deane, this week Ballesteros has yet to find a permanent replacement.

A partnership-renewing acquaintance this week is that of Sandy Lyle and Dave Murgrove. Murgrove, routines from his book not being enough to keep him in the style to which he would like to be accustomed, was on duty in Dusseldorf last week, although Lyle was having a week off at home, entertaining his two sons from his first marriage. After five days, dealing with Howard Clark, not the easiest of men, Murgrove must welcome a return to the easy-going Lyle.

Criticised by Ken Schofield, the Tour's executive director, for missing last week, Lyle was a little hurt by what he saw as the unfairness of it all. As JoLande,

Card of the course

Rank	Yds	Par	Score	Yds	Par	Score
1	519	5	10	389	4	8
2	432	4	11	213	3	9
3	185	3	12	386	4	8
4	459	4	13	207	3	9
5	355	4	14	575	5	11
6	385	4	15	514	5	11
7	317	4	16	338	4	8
8	188	3	17	355	4	8
9	634	5	18	382	4	8
Out	3,465	36	In	3,356	36	

